International Herald Tribune

PUBLISHED WITH THE NEW YORK TIMES AND THE WASHINGTON POST

The World's Daily Newspaper ** Paris, Friday, March 15, 1996 No. 35,160

Dunblane: A Town Transformed by Murder

By Sarah Lyall
New York Times Service

DUNBLANE, Scotland — Reeling from grief and fury at the massacre of 16 small children in a primary school on Wednesday, residents of this tiny, sleepy town in the Scottish hills struggled Thursday to go on with lives they knew had been forever altered.

"It is very difficult because people will always be aware of yesterday," said Louis Stott, owner of Browsers bookstore on High Street, in the shadow of the medieval cathedral that looms over the town. He said that, from now on, the town would think of itself completely differently — in terms of "before" and "after."

"People won't speak about Dunblane in the same way again," Mr. Stott said. "It will be like Lockerbie, except that Dunblane will always be the place where the children were murdered."

Killed on Wednesday were 16 children under the age of 6 and their teacher. Twelve more children were wounded, and three of them remained in critical condition Thursday. Rage here grew against the gunman, Thomas Hamilton, who killed himself after storming into the Dunblane Primary School and opening fire on a class of 5- and 6-year-olds in the gymnasium.

A picturesque town of just 7,000 people, many of them well-to-do commuters with jobs in Edinburgh or Glasgow, Dunblane is known as a place of friendly respectability and beautiful large houses, where people know their neighbors and even burglary is seen as an exotic practice mainly found in cities. It is a big draw for tourists, too, who come to visit the Dunblane Cathedral, which dates from the 13th century, and to walk in the surrounding countryside.

But Thursday there was little thought for anything except what happened Wednesday morning. At the Sue Ryder charity shop, the manager said she felt as if a pall had fallen over the town.

"The place feels terrible this morning, just terrible," she said, recounting the heart-stopping moment Wednesday when she first heard cars with sirens tearing down the street outside.

In a community so small and usually so free of trouble, the sight of even one wailing ambulance or racing police car is a rare event.

But this multiple horror was beyond comprehension, the manager said, and it would take people a long time to learn how to cope with it.

"You don't know quite what to do," she said. "You're honest about it, you have to admit there is nothing you can do."

Many of the stores on High Street, the center of

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Europeans Reject Bid to Vilify Iran

Trade Ties and Dialogue Help Western Cause, Chirac Asserts

By William Drozdiak
Washington Post Service

PARIS — American and Israeli attempts to isolate Iran for its alleged role supporting Middle East terrorism have evoked a skeptical response from allied governments in Europe, where political and commercial arguments run strongly in favor of sustaining a "critical dialogue" with Tehran.

Despite President Bill Clinton's claims Thursday that European leaders may be having "second thoughts" about conciliatory overtures toward Iran, senior French and other European officials insist that it would be a strategic blunder to follow U.S. advice in breaking off contacts and imposing a global embargo against Iran.

"This would be a very dangerous step," President Jacques Chirac of France said in a television interview after the anti-terrorism summit conference Wednesday that brought the leaders of 27 nations to the Egyptian resort of Sharm el-Sheikh.

"An embargo, or rejection, would only end up helping the extremists," Mr. Chirac said. "You now have elections in Tehran. Liberals have achieved a score that is more than honorable. We need to encourage them."

Mr. Chirac noted that trade and political exchanges between Iran and European Union countries have already yielded "positive results" in the field of human rights. As an example, he cited pardons that were granted to several Iranian Jews who had been condemned to death and in whose behalf the EU had intervened.

The French leader acknowledged a "divergence of views" with Washington, but observed that the 15 European Union countries were "unanimous" in their determination to maintain a "critical dialogue" with Iran's Shiite fundamentalist regime.

Mr. Chirac's remarks contrasted sharply with Mr. Clinton's assessment, expressed at a press conference in Israel on Thursday, that he discerned a tougher approach developing among the allies. "Based on my private conversations, I did believe that there was a change of attitude and direction in the minds of some of the European leaders with whom I met," Mr. Clinton said.

Because of fierce objections by France and other European countries, Iran was not singled out for condemnation in the summit meeting's final declaration, despite strong pleas to do so from the United States and Prime Minister Shimon Peres of Israel. Mr. Peres described Tehran as the "capital of terrorism."

American diplomats contend that the Europeans have become blinded to Iran's activities because of their lucrative commercial interests there. When a U.S. embargo forced Conoco to bow out of a major oil deal last year, the state-owned

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Hispanics Dominate Shift in U.S. Population

By Steven A. Holmes
New York Times Service

WASHINGTON — Fueled by immigration and higher birthrates among Hispanics, the United States is undergoing a profound demographic shift, and, according to a Census Bureau report, by the middle of the next century only about half of the population will be whites.

By 2050, the bureau said, immigration patterns and differences in birthrates, combined with an overall slowdown in growth of the country's population, will produce a United States in which 53 percent of the people will be non-Hispanic whites, down from 74 percent today.

In contrast, Hispanics will make up 24.5 percent of the population, up from the current 10.2 percent, and Asians will make up 8.2 percent, up from 3.3 percent today. The percentage of the black population will remain relatively stable, rising to about 13.6 percent by 2050 from the current 12 percent.

The population as a whole will rise to about 394 million from 262 million, an increase of 50 percent, the bureau said.

Overall, the report suggests that the United States is experiencing one of the most dramatic shifts in its racial and ethnic makeup since the trade in slaves transformed the racial composition of the South and the waves of immigration from Eastern and Southern Europe in the late 19th and early 20th centuries gave an ethnic flavor to industrialized urban areas of the Northeast and Midwest.

"The world is not going to be the same in 30 years as it is now," Gregory Spencer, director of the *Population Projections* Branch at the bureau, said Wednesday. The growth rates of the Asian and Hispanic populations were expected to be 2 percent a year to the year 2030. In comparison, even at the zenith of the Baby Boom, the country as a whole never grew by 2 percent a year.

The report notes that its projections were simply projections. Changes in legislation regarding immigration, changes in fertility rates, and breakthroughs in medical care that could extend life expectancy could alter future estimates.

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Jerome Delay/The Associated Press

Mr. Clinton talking with family members of Yitzhak Rabin on Thursday at the assassinated leader's grave site.

Clinton Offers the Israelis Condolences and New Aid

Aim of Visit Is to Bolster Peace and Peres

By Serge Schmemann
New York Times Service

JERUSALEM — Alternating between politician, preacher and professor, President Bill Clinton raced from the peak of Mount Herzl in Jerusalem to the heart of coastal Tel Aviv on Thursday to convince the wounded Israelis that the United States stood squarely behind them and their endangered peace.

The centerpiece of Mr. Clinton's brief visit was the announcement that the United States would commit $100 million to supply Israel with training and technical assistance in the struggle against terrorism. American officials said the aid would include advanced bomb detection devices, X-ray systems, robotics for suspected bombs and advanced thermal and radar sensors.

But the pledge was part of a broader bid to revive Israeli faith in peace with the Palestinians after four disastrous suicide bombings, in which 58 victims died. And, even though Mr. Clinton denied it, another obvious goal was to bolster Prime Minister Shimon Peres's damaged standing before the May 29 national elections.

"The message of the pact to the people of Israel should also be quite clear: just as America walks with you every step of the way as you work toward peace, we stand with you now in defending all that you are and all that has been accomplished," Mr. Clinton said at a news conference in Jerusalem.

The president's schedule included a meeting with the entire Israeli cabinet; a visit to the national cemetery on Mount Herzl to lay a wreath at the tomb of the late Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin and to pay respects at the graves of victims of terrorist attack; a meeting with the opposition leader Benjamin Netanyahu, and a meeting with an assembly of Israeli students in Tel Aviv.

Following criticism from the mayor of Jerusalem, Ehud Olmert, that the schedule did not do sufficient honor to Jerusalem, Mr. Clinton joined him in visiting a Jerusalem school that lost four pupils in the latest wave of terrorist attacks.

At every stop, the theme was the same, urging Israelis to stay the course. At the meeting with students in the Center for the Performing Arts in Tel Aviv, Mr. Clinton was greeted with a prolonged standing ovation, and introduced by Mr. Peres as "one of the greatest presidents that the United States has ever had."

Repaying the compliment, Mr. Clinton told the students that to succeed, they had first to follow the advice of the prime minister. Clearly savoring the warm welcome, he was at times the teacher, tutoring the students on "learning how to learn," and at times the Southern preacher, citing psalms to drive home his point.

"Israel is not alone. America stands with you, and with every passing day, so do more people, here and abroad," he said. "But we will not rest until, in the words of the psalm, 'there is peace within Israel's walls and security in her towers.' And we know that Israel will never give her enemies the victory they seek, never abandon the hope of peace."

Mr. Clinton made no effort to balance his backing for Israel with a gesture toward Yasser Arafat or the Palestinians. Publicly supporting Israel's severe measures in the West Bank and the Gaza Strip, he asserted that it was an objective of the terrorists to compel Israel to punish all Palestinians. "It's a deliberate attempt by them to make the Palestinians as miserable as possible," he said.

A Menacing Edge to Pakistan's Cities

Nation Is Awash in Automatic Weapons Left Over From Afghan War

By Kenneth J. Cooper
Washington Post Service

PESHAWAR, Pakistan — On the February night the new moon was sighted, marking the end of the Islamic holy month of Ramadan, the men of this frontier city pointed their automatic rifles at the heavens and in celebration let forth a burst of gunfire that etched red streaks in the sky for 45 minutes. Twenty-one moon watchers were taken to hospitals with accidental gunshot wounds. Three of them died.

A month earlier in Lahore, capital of the agricultural Punjab Province, it was dangerous to fly a kite. During the spring Basant festival, nocturnal revelers flew kites from rooftops and maneuvered to knock down other kites. Many of the 150 people reported injured were hit by stray bullets fired into the air to celebrate kite knockdowns. One died.

"We used to have firecrackers," said Ayesha Jalal, a professor at Columbia University who grew up celebrating Basant in Lahore. "Now we have gunfire."

Military assault weapons left over from the Cold War have become so prevalent in Pakistan that they have penetrated the nation's traditions and altered daily life in its cities. Concerned Pakistanis bemoan the violent impact of the "Kalashnikov culture," so named for the AK-47s and similar Eastern bloc rifles that were used in the war to drive the Soviet Army from Afghanistan.

The Afghan war ended in 1989, but many of its guns are still blazing in Pakistan. Initially, Islamic guerrillas, mujahidin, captured the assault rifles from Soviet troops or received them among the tons of weaponry the United States and Saudi Arabia pumped into Afghanistan through Pakistan during the war. Since then, Afghan soldiers have smuggled automatic rifles and even heavier weapons across the border and sold them to supplement their meager incomes. A smaller number of Pakistani volunteers who fought alongside the Afghans brought their guns home.

Prominent and wealthy residents purchased the weapons for protection. Members of Parliament and top bureaucrats were included in a limited number of Pakistanis licensed to own automatic weapons. AK-47s became symbols of status and power.

Prime Minister Benazir Bhutto has complained that her country got stuck with its gun problem as a direct result of cooperation with the United States in Afghanistan. But an American diplomat based in Pakistan maintained that the Bhutto government has failed to stem the continuing flow of firearms.

The combination of guns and economic frustration has proved deadliest in Karachi. The number of killings in the

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Where Castoff Clothes Turn Into Cash

By James C. McKinley Jr.
New York Times Service

NAIROBI — Martin Eshitemi had to bargain hard for his latest sartorial acquisition, haggling a good 15 minutes with the owner of a wooden stall overflowing with shirts.

When it was over, the taxi-driver paid the equivalent of $1.50 for his prize: a used T-shirt with the National Football League logo on the sleeve and Budweiser emblazoned across the chest.

"I don't know what Budweiser means," Mr. Eshitemi, 36, acknowledged as he stuffed the shirt into a plastic bag.

"I bought it because I like foreign designs. I can't get these kinds of T-shirts in the local shops. I'm looking for some jeans to go with it."

All along the crooked dirt streets of the Gikomba market here, hundreds of merchants were ripping open bales of clothes with knives, spilling shirts, pants, underwear, all manner of clothes, into rough-hewn kiosks.

As hawkers sang out prices in Kiswahili, crowds of buyers surged around the stands with the latest shipments, jostling to get the first pick of sweaters, hats, jeans, shoes, slacks, even three-piece suits — all second-hand.

This sprawling and muddy market in East Africa's biggest city is the final destination for tons of clothes that Americans and Europeans give away each year to charities like the Salvation Army and Goodwill.

But by the time they reach the Gikomba stalls, they are anything but charitable gifts.

In fact, the second-hand clothes market is a growing, multimillion-dollar industry here, a capitalist free-for-all where dozens of middlemen make a profit before the consumer finally wears the clothes.

Last year, American companies exported more than $81.1 million worth of cast-off clothes to sub-Saharan Africa, making worn textiles one of the top eight exports to the continent, rivaling airplanes and wheat.

Most of the clothes come from charities in New York, San Francisco and Los Angeles, U.S. Commerce Department officials say. Only a fraction of the clothes many charities collect are resold or given away to the poor in their own region. The rest are sold to companies known as "ragpickers," which sort and export them, executives in the business said.

The charities say that selling the clothes for resale abroad is the best way to use some of the clothing donations they receive to raise funds and serve their clients.

"Americans throw away gobs of

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Antilles	12.50 FF	Morocco	14 Dh
Cameroon	1,600 CFA	Qatar	10.00 Riels
Egypt	£E 5	Réunion	12,50 FF
France	10.00 FF	Saudi Arabia	10.00 R.
Gabon	1100 CFA	Senegal	1.100 CFA
Greece	350 Dr.	Spain	225 PTAS
Italy	2,800 Lire	Tunisia	1.250 Dirh
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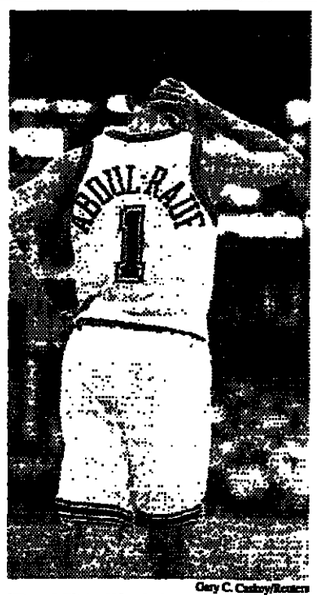

Gary C. Caskey/Reuters

The NBA lifted its suspension of *Mahmood Abdul-Rauf*, who said he was willing to stand and pray during the national anthem. Page 23.

AGENDA

House Approves Stopgap Funds

WASHINGTON (Reuters) — The House approved and sent to the Senate on Thursday a one-week government funding bill that would keep many federal agencies, the national parks and museums open through March 22.

The threat of another closure at midnight Friday will not be lifted from federal agencies until the Senate also approves an extension, and President Bill Clinton signs the measure into law. The House vote was 238 to 179.

Congress and the White House have been unable to reach a compromise on funding for many agencies for the rest of the 1996 fiscal year.

Approval of the short-term funding bill would allow the negotiations to continue for another week.

It also would let lawmakers and the administration continue efforts to compromise on Mr. Clinton's demand that more money be found for education, the environment and other domestic programs. But differences between the two sides are so great that an agreement could take more than a week.

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Dow Jones	Trib Index
Up	Up
17.34	0.62%
5586.06	133.07

The Dollar

New York,	Thurs. close	previous close
DM	1.4715	1.4708
Pound	1.5275	1.5295
Yen	105.53	105.15
FF	5.0425	5.0355

Rift at European Union / **Not What You Think**

A Story of Love, Betrayal and Revenge

By Rick Atkinson
Washington Post Service

BRUSSELS — Marshall L. Michel 3d — former Air Force combat pilot, former NATO war planner, former happy man — can pinpoint the moment when he was transformed from a convivial ex-fighter jock to an obsessive avenger.

During a business trip to Washington from his Brussels home, Mr. Michel returned to his hotel late on the afternoon of Jan. 29 to find a fax from his Russian wife of five months, Lena Prokhorova. Between the salutatory "I have to tell you something extremely urgent and important" to the closing "please forgive me," Ms. Prokhorova lowered the boom:

"I was not in love with you, but I liked you a lot. . . . But as regards the deep and intricate art of living together, it turned out to be so, so difficult. My understanding is that in terms of personalities, mentality and values we are as different as two educated and intelligent people can conceivably be."

Ms. Prokhorova, a 40-year-old beauty with a PhD from St. Petersburg, confessed that she had long been in love with another man, that she had married Mr. Michel on the bounce after concluding that her lover would never leave his wife and — Oh fickle Eros! — that she was now abandoning Mr. Michel because the lover had indeed dumped his mate.

As Dear John letters go, the missive was plaintive if hardly unique. Happens every day, if not always by transatlantic fax. But the consequences proved anything but commonplace, sending a titillating jolt through the normally sober bureaucratic world of the European Commission, the powerful executive body that oversees the European Union.

For one thing, the Other Man was Michael Emerson, a 55-year-old British diplomat and economist who had long served as the commission's ambassador to Moscow, tending the billions in aid money funneled from rich, uneasy Western Europe to poor, unstable Russia.

Moreover, Mr. Michel, 53, proved to be no ordinary Jilted Husband. A retired U.S. Air Force colonel who flew 321 combat sorties in Vietnam, the distraught Mr. Michel returned to Brussels as a man on a mission. Ms. Prokhorova had cleared out of their apartment in Woluwe St. Pierre, but in removing her computer files from Mr. Michel's Macintosh, she failed to realize that the computer was programmed to save documents every five minutes and tuck away copies in cybernetic safekeeping.

Mr. Michel found not only a half-dozen drafts of the Dear John note, but also two curious letters written by Mr. Emerson in late January, evidently typed on the Mac so he could use the attached laser printer. The first, to a wealthy St. Petersburg businessman named Ilya Baskin, referred to "our consulting company" and recommended "Kirghizia gold and silver, to be used as guarantee for a credit." The second, to the Coopers & Lybrand accounting firm, referred to the Baskin partnership and laid out a plan for funneling cash from Moscow through Bankers Trust Corp. in New York to a British account in Jersey and ultimately to "an offshore company in Cyprus."

Marshall and Lena, left, in happier times. She would write him: 'I was not in love with you, but I liked you a lot.' The Russian beauty dropped the former U.S. fighter pilot for Michael, above, the British economist who served as the EU ambassador in Moscow. Marshall wanted to get even.

Another letter — which was written in Russian and which Mr. Michel contends was drafted by Ms. Prokhorova to Mr. Baskin on Mr. Emerson's behalf — proposed that the partnership president collect $1.6 million in advance and a $30,000 monthly salary.

Within an hour after finding the letters, Mr. Michel contacted the commission's fraud office. He also got word to the Belgian police and several newspapers, providing copies of all relevant documents. Investigations ensued, varying in their degrees of salaciousness. ("I've Lived a Lie, Says Love-Rift Temptress," one British headline reported.)

ON FEB. 28 the commission rebuked Mr. Emerson for "not strictly conforming" to the ethical standard demanded of Eurocrats, which includes tough restrictions on outside business dealings. Since no money appears to have changed hands, Mr. Emerson was allowed to take early retirement even as the investigation continues.

Mr. Emerson, reached briefly by telephone, declared that "there are certain proceedings under way and it would not be correct to have conversations with the press at the moment."

Ms. Prokhorova, consenting to a somewhat longer interview, said of Mr. Michel: "He wants to take revenge, I believe. He's angry because I've left him. That's quite understandable."

And Mr. Michel, who seems compelled to talk as long as a sympathetic ear will listen, said, "Every once in a while I wonder whether I'm obsessing about this. Then, about three days ago, I thought, 'Of course you are.' "

"You know," he added, "a friend of mine told me recently, 'Marshall, remind me never to make you mad.' "

He sits in the restaurant chair as if he's again in a cockpit: alert, erect, ready to act and react. He has chosen a Brussels bistro called Rick's, a lively watering hole with a "Casablanca" motif and a clientele of English-speaking expats. Perhaps not surprisingly, it's a stone's throw from the apartment where Ms. Prokhorova and Mr. Emerson have sought refuge.

"Everything I'd read about Russian women suggested they look at money and life differently somehow. I thought, well, not Lena, she'll be different. Wrong again," Mr. Michel said, nursing a beer. "Right now I have no idea who Lena is. I've always said that was part of the attraction, that I didn't really know who she was and she didn't really know who I was."

Daughter of a Soviet naval officer, she grew up in Vladivostok and Leningrad. After studying English, German and philosophy at college, she spent two years in India as a translator for the Soviet trade committee. In the 1980s she spent another five years in Nepal as a translator before finishing her doctorate at Moscow's prestigious Institute of World Economy and International Relations. Her thesis explored "Foreign Policy Issues as Viewed by the European Parliament."

On her curriculum vitae Ms. Prokhorova writes, "Personal traits: highly motivated, open, friendly, responsible, achievement-oriented with demonstrated skill of working in a fast-paced, international environment."

Shortly before her liaison with Mr. Michel, she had begun working for the European Commission's delegation in Moscow. Her boss was Mr. Emerson, an Oxford- and Harvard-educated career diplomat who had helped launch the European monetary system in 1977 and who is described by one British writer as "an unworldly, monklike figure." As Ms. Prokhorova told Mr. Michel in her Jan. 29 letter, their relationship over the years "grew into friendship, affection and then love."

She was married. So was Mr. Emerson. So was Mr. Michel. The American's spouse was first to go. Mr. Michel left Brussels in September 1992, retired from the air force and settled in the United States to write a book on air combat over North Vietnam. He and his wife separated in February 1993 and were divorced a year later.

He and Ms. Prokhorova met in London in October 1993 for what he recalls as "a great, wild time." She returned to Moscow and divorced her husband, who now is Russia's ambassador to the European Parliament in Strasbourg.

MR. MICHEL assumed he was the cause of the split. Wrong again: Mr. Emerson remained her true love; he also remained married. For a prominent British diplomat, a messy divorce and remarriage to a Russian would have been unseemly, particularly for a man who reportedly aspired to be London's ambassador to the United States.

According to Ms. Prokhorova's Jan. 29 letter, Mr. Emerson's wife, Barbara, discovered her husband's affair with the younger Russian woman and "demanded that we stop seeing each other, which we did."

Trapped in an apparently hopeless triangle, Ms. Prokhorova headed for Washington. She and Mr. Michel took up where they had left off in London. Last August they were married in Moscow's Wedding Palace No. 4 in a ceremony followed by a lobster lunch at the Hotel Metropole.

On Jan. 24, Mr. Michel made his ill-fated trip to Washington, not realizing that Mr. Emerson's five-year tenure in Moscow was up and that he had just moved back to Brussels. Even before his return, he and Ms. Prokhorova evidently collaborated in seeking a lucrative business arrangement that would capitalize on his stature in Russia and Western Europe.

Italy Faces Import Ban In U.S. Over Net Fishing

By Thomas W. Lippman
Washington Post Service

WASHINGTON — Italy is facing a cutoff of more than $1 billion a year in exports to the United States because of a federal court ruling that Italian fishermen are defying a worldwide ban on the use of huge plastic nets for commercial fishing.

Judge Thomas J. Aquilino Jr. of the U.S. Court of International Trade in New York ruled late last month that the Commerce and State departments must declare officially that Italy is violating the ban. He said the two departments "unlawfully withheld" such a finding in the face of compelling evidence.

The judge handed a total victory to the Humane Society of the United States, the Sierra Club Legal Defense Fund and other environmental groups who had sued the Commerce and State departments for allegedly failing to enforce a U.S. law aimed at implementing the ban on drift nets.

Once Judge Aquilino issues a formal order — which lawyers involved in the case said he will wait three weeks to do, to avoid unpleasantness in an early April state visit by Italy's president, Oscar Luigi Scalfaro — Italy will have 90 days to prove it has complied with the drift net ban.

Failure to do so would automatically trigger a ban on U.S. imports of Italian fish and fish products, which officials said total about $1.2 billion a year, including the value of jewelry made from coral. Under a 1992 U.S. law, additional sanctions would be imposed if that import ban failed to push the Italians into compliance.

"For sure the Italian government is going to do its best to cooperate," said an Italian official involved in the issue.

State and Commerce department officials said an appeal of the ruling was unlikely, and a Commerce Department spokesman said "there is a strong likelihood that an agreement can be reached."

In the past, however, the Italians have said that much of the 600-vessel drift net fleet is controlled by the Mafia and is beyond the reach of government enforcement, according to a senior State Department official. More Italian drift netters have been apprehended by Spanish enforcers than by Italian officials, environmental groups said.

An agreement would require Italy to join the long list of countries that have abandoned most drift net fishing since the United Nations General Assembly voted to ban the practice in 1992. Environmental groups and marine scientists sought the ban because the huge nets — up to 18 miles (29 kilometers) long — trapped many species of marine life besides edible commercial fish.

According to the environmental groups that filed the suit, the Italians set their nets for swordfish and tuna, but those fish make up only 18 percent of the catch. Their nets also ensnare dolphins, whales and turtles, which die trapped in the plastic netting.

The United Nations banned deployment of nets longer than 1.55 miles. The European Union, of which Italy is a member, adopted a similar standard, but EU officials acknowledged that they had been unable to persuade Italy to enforce it effectively.

In the New York case, the Commerce and State departments argued that the evidence against Italy was less than clear-cut. But Judge Aquilino ruled otherwise after studying State Department cables indicating a clear pattern of violations.

He said the documents "give reason in the mind of an ordinarily intelligent person to believe that Italians continue to engage in large-scale drift net fishing in the Mediterranean Sea, in defiance of the law of their own country and the rest of the world."

The Humane Society executive vice president, Patricia Forkan, said in a statement: "We are pleased that the court agrees that the evidence uncovered demonstrated that the U.S. government has let Italy literally get away with murder. When Italy realizes the devastating economic impact of continuing to use oversized drift nets and, thereby, losing access to the U.S. market, they will stop the indiscriminate killing."

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New Medical Norms Set By U.S. for Most Pilots

The Associated Press

WASHINGTON — The government is revising its medical standards for pilots, allowing many to go longer between checkups but imposing more stringent requirements on others.

About 654,000 pilots nationwide will be affected by the changes in regulations, which are expected to take effect in 6 months.

The Federal Aviation Administration said that private pilots under age 40 would have to renew their medical certificates every three years, instead of every other year. The two-year rule will remain for those 40 and older.

Airline pilots will still have to renew their medical approvals every six months, and other commercial pilots annually.

The new standards will disqualify pilots who fail a verified drug test. Previously, an established diagnosis of drug dependence was required.

Also, pilots with a heart replacement, pacemaker or heart valve replacement will be medically disqualified, though they can apply for a medical waiver.

The current rules were written several years ago, administration officials said, and needed to be updated. The new version takes into account such medical advances as heart transplants.

A new vision standard is being introduced for transport and commercial pilots over age 50, who must get annual checks to certify that they can read the instrument panels on their planes.

Private pilots will also be subject to new vision standards to assure that they can perform such flight duties as map-reading.

The new standards will allow the use of electronic hearing tests in lieu of the current test, which uses a whisper.

The aviation administration said it decided not to impose a requirement for electrocardiograms for second-class commercial pilots, as it found that those needing the tests obtained them on their own anyway.

TRAVEL UPDATE

A New Airport for Paris

PARIS (AFP) — Former Transport Minister Jacques Douffiagues confirmed Thursday that a site southwest of the capital has been recommended for a third international airport to serve the Paris area.

Mr. Douffiagues, head of a study group considering possible sites, said it favored construction of the airport in the Eure-et-Loir department southwest of Paris, in the Chartres region, between the towns of Beauvilliers and Santeuil.

The president of the Ile de France Regional Council, Michel Giraud, said the proposed site met the requirements that the airport must be close to a superhighway and a high-speed train line.

Meningitis Spreads in Africa

GENEVA (AP) — An epidemic of meningitis is spreading in western Africa, the World Health Organization said Thursday. The death toll in Nigeria rose to 3,386, an increase of more than 700 in a week, the UN agency said. Almost 19,000 people have been infected.

In Burkina Faso, 7,476 people have contracted the disease and 668 have died. In Niger, 4,808 people are infected, with 503 deaths so far. In Chad, 244 cases have been diagnosed, with 19 dead.

Providing a digital telephone link between Europe and the Pacific region, an international switching station opened in Moscow. *(AP)*

A small group of Bucharest subway workers blocked the tracks of the main station, halting traffic despite the end of a mass strike. *(Reuters)*

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Argentina	001-800-777-1111	Egypt (Cairo) +	356-4777	Lithuania	8◆197	Slovak Republic +	0042-087-187
Armenia	8-10-155	El Salvador	800-1776	Luxembourg	0800-0115	South Africa +	0-800-99-0001
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Austria +	022-903-014	Germany +	0130-0013	Monaco +	19◆0087	Syrian Arab Republic +★	0888
Bahamas +	1-800-389-2111	Greece +	008-001-411	Netherlands Antilles ★ (Curacao & Bonaire) +	001-800-745-1111	Taiwan	0080-14-0877
Bahrain	800-777	Guam	950-1366	Netherlands +	06-022-9119	Thailand	001-999-13-877
Barbados ★	1-800-534-0042	Guatemala +	195	New Zealand	000-999	Turkey +	00-800-1-4477
Belgium +	0800-10014	Honduras ▲	121	Nicaragua (Nicaragua)	171	Ukraine	8-100-15
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Belize (all other) ◇	812	Hungary +	00◆800-01-877	Panama	115	U.S.A.	1-800-877-8000
Bermuda ★	1-800-623-0877	Iceland +★	800-9003	Peru	176	United Arab Emirates +	800-131
Bolivia	0800-3333	India +	000-137	Philippines (ETPI stations only) ◇	105-01	United Kingdom (BT)	0500-89-0877
Brazil	000-8016	Indonesia (Indosat)	001-801-15	Philippines (PhilCom) ▲	102-611	United Kingdom (Mercury)	0500-89-0877
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THE AMERICAS

Forbes Pledges to Back Dole 'Wholeheartedly'

By Brian Knowlton
International Herald Tribune

WASHINGTON — The publisher Steve Forbes withdrew officially from the Republican presidential race Thursday and vowed to support Senator Bob Dole "wholeheartedly."

But, while not calling for the establishment of a third party, he pointedly suggested that both major parties were in such crying need of renewal that they could fade away "like the Federalists or Whigs did in the last century."

Speaking at a news conference above supporters' chants of "Steve 2000, Steve 2000," Mr. Forbes hinted that he might consider another run for the presidency.

The publisher said that his central message — which he defined as "less government, more freedom," had "provoked and promoted a debate on the critical issues of the day."

His chief issue was support for a flat tax of 17 percent on earned income that would not tax investment income and would eliminate the popular deductions for mortgage interest and gifts to charity.

He had spent more than $30 million, much of it from a personal fortune estimated to exceed $400 million, to bring his message to the voters' attention. His rapid rise and ultimate fall, analysts said, reflected both the importance of a well-financed campaign and the fact that money alone was not enough.

As Mr. Forbes himself said Thursday, "The American people are not for sale."

Thus ended a campaign that had drawn yawns and snickers when first announced six months ago, but which had taken on such life that it was briefly seen as a serious threat even to the far more established Dole candidacy.

After the early excitement of winning the Delaware and Arizona primaries, the Forbes campaign steadily lost steam as scrutiny by the news media increased and attacks from his chief rivals, Mr. Dole and the commentator Patrick J. Buchanan, became more intense.

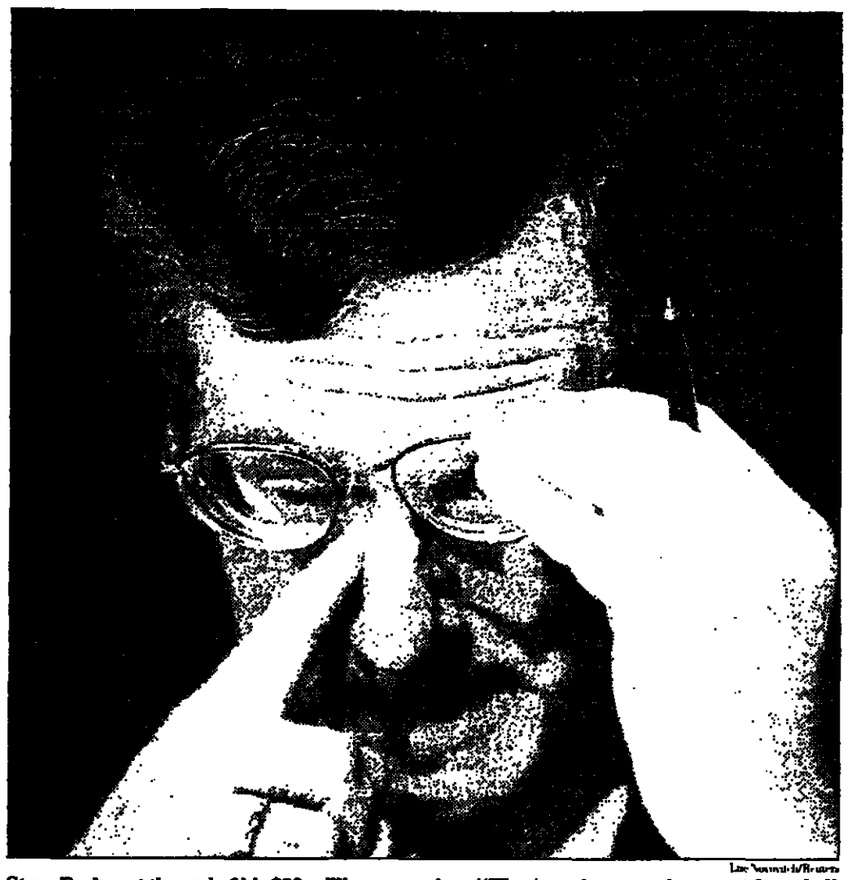
In his withdrawal statement, Mr. Forbes appeared to make a veiled criticism of Mr. Buchanan. During the campaign, he had called on the commentator to apologize for a message Mr. Dole has called "extreme" and others have called anti-Semitic. "It's not enough simply to be against — either against someone or something," Mr. Forbes said. "A great party must stand for principles, ideas and issues that resonate with the highest aspirations of the American people — that appeal, as Abraham Lincoln said, to the better angels of our nature."

Mr. Forbes had vowed as recently as Wednesday morning to stay in the race through the primaries next Tuesday in four heavily populated Midwestern states. But after long talks in Washington with his advisers, he concluded that the chances of victory in Illinois, Ohio, Michigan or Wisconsin were bleak.

Though Mr. Forbes promised to support Mr. Dole, tensions between the campaigns remained evident.

Jack Kemp, the former U.S. housing secretary who had been with the Forbes campaign for only 10 days, said he hoped that "Bob Dole would reach out to Steve immediately," but added, "So far he has shown no magnanimity in victory."

Mr. Dole, campaigning in Michigan, said Thursday that he planned to try to talk to Mr. Forbes by telephone.



Steve Forbes at the end of his $30 million campaign: "The American people are not for sale."

Clinton Ready to Wait Out Rival's Day in the Sun

By Richard L. Berke
New York Times Service

MIAMI — Senator Bob Dole's emergence as the likely Republican nominee has led both parties to reevaluate just how much of an advantage, if any, President Bill Clinton would have over him in November.

Prominent Democrats who had expected Mr. Clinton to coast to reelection say they are beginning to reconsider Mr. Dole now that he is having some success putting the bruising primary battle behind him after his sweep of Florida, Texas and five other states on Tuesday.

"These things have an ebb and flow, and right now the flow is that Dole's going to get his day in the sun a little bit," said James Carville, a strategist for Mr. Clinton. "I've detected too much Democratic glee for my taste right now."

Though it is in their interest to present a united front, even Republicans who for months fretted that Mr. Dole was no match for Mr. Clinton are now tempering their concerns.

With the outcome of the primaries essentially a foregone conclusion, Mr. Dole, who was prone to stumbling on the campaign trail, can now spend more time in an atmosphere that better suits him: the well of the Senate.

Mr. Dole's advisers said the senator would now play to his strengths as majority leader and emphasize issues like the budget, overhauling welfare and cutting taxes as he casts Mr. Clinton as failing to deliver to the American people.

"Clinton's trying to run against a do-nothing Congress," said Scott Reed, Mr. Dole's campaign manager, "so we'll make the case that we're running against a do-nothing president."

> **'I've detected too much Democratic glee.'**

Mr. Clinton, who does not share Mr. Dole's talents as a legislative mechanic but is considered a more adept campaigner, is doing his best to stay above the political fray. His staff continues to push back the date that Mr. Clinton will formally announce his re-election campaign. And one after another, White House aides decline publicly to size up Mr. Dole.

But privately, strategists on both sides say they are preparing for a hard-fought contest, and they discount polls that for months have put Mr. Clinton ahead in a one-on-one matchup. One uncertainty is that with the primary season ending far earlier this year than usual, and the national conventions not beginning until late August, the contours of the election could greatly change, and change again, before November.

"It's natural for Dole to look pretty damaged at this point — he has just run the gauntlet and been paddled like a fraternity brother," said Charles E. Cook Jr., a nonpartisan analyst. "But eight months is a lifetime. I think this thing is going to get real close."

This much is certain: Americans generally sound dissatisfied with both men. Forty percent of Republican voters and 46 percent of Democrats said they would like to see a third-party candidate in the race, according to a CBS News poll.

In fact, several recent polls offer signs of the strengths and weaknesses of both candidates.

They show that some people continue to have doubts about Mr. Clinton's leadership skills and his character, and that others are concerned Mr. Dole may lack the stamina to be an effective president. They are also concerned that he has no vision. Still, voters consider Mr. Dole's longtime experience in government a plus.

TREKKIE GOES HOME — Barbara Adams, in Star Trek garb, arriving at the court in Little Rock, Arkansas, where she was excused Thursday from the Whitewater case as an alternate juror.

Away From Politics

- A man was convicted in Long Beach, California, of the fatal shooting of two 19-year-old Japanese students in a 1994 carjacking in a supermarket parking lot. Raymond Oscar Butler could face the death penalty. *(AP)*
- Colorado lawmakers have approved a bill banning same-sex marriages. *(AP)*
- Scientists have beefed up the soybean's nutritional value by endowing the beans with a Brazil nut gene, but the engineered soybeans can cause rashes in people who are allergic to the nuts, a report says in the New England Journal of Medicine. *(WP)*
- Sweeping changes in the inspection of meat and poultry are planned by the Department of Agriculture, but the new rules will not include mandatory testing by industry for the salmonella bacteria that kill more than 4,000 people a year and sicken many more. *(NYT)*
- A study has found that AIDS patients whose physicians rarely treat the disease die a year sooner than others, the New England Journal of Medicine reported. *(AP)*
- A Chappaqua, New York, high school has dropped Earvin (Magic) Johnson's 1992 book, "What You Can Do to Avoid AIDS," as part of its AIDS education curriculum after some parents objected to the basketball player's written depictions of oral and anal sex. *(NYT)*

FBI Breaks Detroit Mafia 'Family'

Boss and His Lieutenants Face Charges Covering 30 Years of Crime

The Associated Press

WASHINGTON — The boss and most of the top leaders of the Detroit Mafia have been indicted by a federal grand jury on sweeping charges covering 30 years of alleged murder plots, beatings and public corruption, Attorney General Janet Reno announced Thursday.

"Arrests began last night to take out the entire leadership of the Detroit La Cosa Nostra," Ms. Reno said. "Nine of the 17 defendants are accused of committing over a 30-year period numerous acts of violence, extortion and racketeering.

"The conduct includes infiltration of several Las Vegas casinos, plotting murders and beatings, and corrupting officials," she continued. "Other defendants are accused of a variety of illegal acts."

Joseph Martinolich Jr., an FBI special agent, said in Detroit: "We believe we've driven a stake through the heart of La Cosa Nostra."

The alleged boss of the Detroit, Jack Tocco, 69, was arrested Thursday at a house in Boca Raton, Florida, and his brother, Anthony, 64, was arrested nearby, FBI officials said.

Ms. Reno described Jack Tocco as one of the nation's "longest-tenured and most powerful" Mafia bosses.

Anthony Zerilli, 68, the underboss, or second in command, also was arrested in Florida, the FBI said, as was Paul Tocco, 78.

Nine of the defendants were "made members" of the Detroit Mafia family, meaning they had taken a blood oath, said Rick Mosquera, chief of the FBI's organized crime section.

They represent "the historical leadership of this family for the past 30 years," he said.

The Detroit mob made most of its money from extortion, loan-sharking, sports bookmaking and protection rackets, Mr. Mosquera said. It relied on collection techniques like "shooting at people and placing bombs in businesses," he said.

Mr. Mosquera said the FBI obtained more than 30 warrants for electronic surveillance and was aided by informants inside the gang.

In the past 12 months, Ms. Reno said, the heads of organized crime families have been indicted or convicted on federal racketeering charges in Boston, Chicago, Cleveland, New Orleans, Newark, New York City and Philadelphia.

"In the last three years, 42 top figures in the La Cosa Nostra, including seven bosses or underbosses, have been convicted by federal prosecutors," she said.

Mr. Mosquera said, "Some say La Cosa Nostra is dead. It's not."

He said that only 10 percent of organized crime's made members are in prison.

"La Cosa Nostra remains the most significant organized crime threat in the United States," he said.

The 41-page indictment from the grand jury said that during the 1950s and 1960s, the Detroit mob acquired or tried to acquire hidden financial interests in Nevada casinos, including the Frontier and Aladdin in Las Vegas and the Edgewater Hotel and Casino in Laughlin.

The indictment also charged that the conspirators planned to murder Jesus Morales, the operator of an illegal numbers lottery who had rebuffed their attempts at extortion.

They had also planned the murder of Harry Bowman, also known as "Taco," who had interfered with their illegal gambling operations.

House and Gun Lobby Defang Anti-Terrorism Bill

The Associated Press

WASHINGTON — The House of Representatives passed an anti-terrorism measure Thursday that had been gutted of key provisions that some said would jeopardize individual freedoms.

But the bill would still limit federal appeals by death-row inmates and require payments to crime victims.

"The challenge of a free society is to have a government strong enough to protect us from danger and carefully enough constrained to not itself be a danger to us," said the House speaker, Newt Gingrich, Republican of Georgia. The vote was 229 to 191.

■ Tough Provisions Cut

Stephen Labaton of The New York Times reported from Washington:

The House first voted overwhelmingly to eliminate the central provisions of the counterterrorism bill Wednesday. By a bipartisan vote of 246 to 171, the House approved an amendment offered by the National Rifle Association that knocked out provisions to make it easier to deport illegal aliens suspected of terrorism, to expand the law enforcement and wiretapping powers of the federal government and to enable the authorities to crack down on fund raising in the United States by international terrorist groups.

The passage of the amendment left the legislation with only a handful of significant elements, most notably sharp limitations on appeals by prisoners on death row involving habeas corpus, the right of a person to appeal against imprisonment that places the burden of proof on those receiving the petition.

The bill originated after the bombing of the federal building in Oklahoma City last April. Some civil liberties groups said they were alarmed by Wednesday's action because it made passage of the bill more likely, increasing the chances for limitations on habeas appeals and other provisions they consider objectionable.

Others noted that the amendment diminished the chances of the House's reconciling its bill with the far broader legislation the Senate passed last June.

"I've talked to the White House, and they are now very pessimistic," said Representative Charles E. Schumer, Democrat of New York, who had been the administration's point man on the bill in the House and had supported it before it was amended.

The resulting House bill was "very tepid," he said, and it would be hard to reconcile with the broader bill already passed by the Senate.

" I'd now bet my bottom dollar that at the end of the day, there will be no legislation at all," he said.

The amendment proposed by the National Rifle Association was sponsored by Representative Bob Barr, Republican of Georgia. In addition to deleting key sections of the legislation, it watered down proposed studies of armor-piercing ammunition and certain types of gunpowder.

It also eliminated a provision that lowered the standard of proof for prosecuting gun stores and other distributors that provide weapons that are later used in crimes.

Administration officials worked this week to garner support for the broader legislation, even as they objected to certain features of it.

Attorney General Janet Reno said she was "extremely disappointed" by the amendment.

"It keeps too many Americans vulnerable to terrorists and madmen by stripping away provisions that might have helped protect law enforcement from killer bullets, and help trace explosives," she said. "It guts provisions for the swift expulsion of foreign terrorists and barriers to fund raising to support terrorism overseas."

POLITICAL NOTES

Compromise on Damages Bill

WASHINGTON — Congressional conferees have agreed to a bill that would limit the amount of money that consumers could be awarded in lawsuits after being injured by dangerous or defective products.

The compromise legislation rejects many of the far-reaching changes approved last year by the House. It puts caps on punitive damages in product liability lawsuits, which manufacturers had sought, but allows a judge to override those caps in cases where conduct by manufacturers or sellers was "egregious."

Punitive damages would be capped at $250,000 or two times compensatory damages, whichever is greater, except in the case of small businesses. For companies with fewer than 25 employees, damage awards would be capped at the smaller of the two limits.

Conferees from the House Commerce and Judiciary committees and the Senate Commerce Committee dropped many of the provisions approved by the House, including protection for doctors, drug companies and the makers of other medical products against liability suits. The House measure also put caps on punitive damages in all civil actions, while the compromise is limited to product liability cases. *(WP)*

Pragmatism Powers the South

ATLANTA — After his victory in the New Hampshire primary last month, Patrick J. Buchanan's campaign rumbled southward, and it seemed to many that he was steaming toward fertile ground.

But three weeks later, it is the South, a region so often stereotyped as a hotbed of Bible-thumping populism, that has effectively marginalized Mr. Buchanan and ensured the Republican presidential nomination of Senator Bob Dole.

With Mr. Dole's victories across the region in the last week and a half, Southern Republicans showed themselves to be pragmatists who place a heavy emphasis on electability and who seek to balance social conservatism with economic conservatism. As a group, they are reluctant to throw away their ballots on protest candidates or those they believe may be too extreme, either for the Republican voters' own tastes or to win a general election.

With the benefit of hindsight, political scientists and Republican strategists in the region said this week that they were not all that surprised. After all, they said, it was also the South that derailed Mr. Buchanan's effort to swipe the 1992 nomination from President George Bush. *(NYT)*

Republicans Target Consultant

WASHINGTON — In the battle over spending, Republicans have found just the symbol they were looking for: a $331-a-day consultant job held by the wife of the White House chief of staff, Leon E. Panetta.

Sylvia Panetta has worked full-time for 13 months at a consultant's rate at the Ounce of Prevention Council, which Republicans cited Wednesday as one on a list of "wasteful, frivolous" spending items that President Bill Clinton has refused to abandon as the White House and Congress struggle to finish work on 1996 spending.

The White House wants to increase funding from $1.5 million to $2 million for the council, created in 1994 to coordinate grants to community crime-fighting programs. House Republicans want to kill it. *(WP)*

Cyberspace vs. U.S. Post Office

WASHINGTON — Electronic communication could cost the post office a quarter of its business, according to Postmaster General Marvin T. Runyon Jr.

"A whole new breed of competition is growing," Mr. Runyon told the House Government Reform postal subcommittee Wednesday. "Banks, software and phone services, even utility companies are wooing new customers with anti-mail offers."

While the post office reported a record $1.8 billion profit last year, Mr. Runyon noted that mail volume declined slightly in the first quarter of this year. *(AP)*

Asian-American Voter Drive

WASHINGTON — A coalition of 19 Asian-American civic organizations is seeking to add as many as 1 million Asian-Americans to the voter rolls in an effort to increase their national political clout.

Organizers called the effort the first national voter registration drive ever aimed at Asian- Americans, who are the nation's fastest growing minority group.

There are 9.7 million Asian-Pacific Americans in the United States, organization officials said Wednesday, accounting for 3.7 percent of the population. Of that number, 2.8 million are citizens who are eligible to vote, but only 1.8 million are registered, they said. *(WP)*

Quote/Unquote

William Dal Col, campaign manager for Steve Forbes, on the publisher's exit from the race for the Republican nomination for president: "He's too much of a realist. He looked at it pragmatically and made his decision." *(NYT)*

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Denying Invasion Plans, China Steps Up War Games

Compiled by Our Staff From Dispatches

TAIPEI — Beijing further intensified its live-ammunition war games in the Taiwan Strait on Thursday, but it also sent out signals that the world need not worry that it would invade Taiwan.

The Defense Ministry in Taipei said China had held a third day of practice attacks southwest of Taiwan and appeared to be gearing up to start a new round of military exercises north of the current war games.

Beijing has launched four surface-to-surface missiles into nearby waters to counter what it calls moves toward independence by the island, which it considers a renegade province.

Chinese warplanes fired air-to-air missiles near Dongshan Island, off the mainland's southeastern coast, the ministry reported, as the president of Taiwan flew to the front lines to tell Beijing that "nobody is scared."

The president, Lee Teng-hui, visited the Pescadores archipelago, about 70 kilometers from the patch of ocean where China is deploying ships and practicing bombing runs.

"They see freedom and democracy, and they are scared to death," Mr. Lee said of the Communists. "They want to scare us and threaten us, but we should know where our strength lies."

Mr. Lee is the front-runner in Taiwan's first direct presidential election, to be held March 23.

But despite the increased military presence, a group of Chinese generals appeared to send out further peace signals Thursday to the United States and other countries concerned about the possibility of an outbreak of fighting between China and Taiwan.

"China will neither invade any other country nor join in the arms race even when it lays claim to a greater national strength in the future," said Liu Huaqing, deputy chairman of the Central Military Commission and the country's most senior serving general.

According to the official Xinhua press agency, General Liu gave the assurance at the National People's Congress in Beijing.

Reinforcing his conciliatory tone, Fu Quanyou, the chief of general staff, was quoted as saying at the same meeting that regional stability was a prerequisite for China's continued economic growth and modernization.

"China needs not only political and social stability at home, but a peaceful international environment, especially a stable surrounding environment," he said, according to the Xinhua report.

The generals' comments follow other assurances this week by Chinese officials to Washington that Beijing has no intention of invading or attacking Taiwan.

A delegation of Chinese officials led by Deputy Foreign Minister Tang Jiaxuan reassured President Fidel V. Ramos of the Philippines that Beijing's military exercises were not aimed at neighboring countries, a senior Phillipine official said.

But several schools in Taipei held air raid drills Thursday, and investors continued to move their money from the island.

Frightened investors have taken up to $4 billion out of Taiwan, said the governor of the central bank, Sheu Yuan-dong.

In a nationally televised interview from New York, where he is visiting, Mr. Sheu urged investors to slow their rush to convert their savings to U.S. dollars, but he promised to supply as much of the currency as they wanted to buy.

In an attempt to cushion the economic impact of the tensions, Taiwan's government has spent $1.5 billion over the last two weeks to support share prices on the Taipei Stock Exchange.

Tsai Mao-hsin, head of a team managing the government fund, accused shareholders Thursday of profiteering by selling stocks and "making a fortune from the national catastrophe."

But a spokesman for the Chinese Foreign Ministry blamed Washington for stoking regional tensions and triggering declines in stock markets across Asia by sending two aircraft battle groups to the region.

"What has caused the fluctuation of the stock markets is actually not the military exercises but the U.S. move to send battle groups up there," he said, calling the American action "reckless."

The missile tests are to end Friday, while the war games, which started Tuesday, are to continue until just before Taiwan's presidential election. *(Reuters, AP, AFP)*

Sale of F-16s to Taiwan On Schedule, U.S. Says

Confusion Over Date Is Played Down

By Michael Richardson and Brian Knowlton
International Herald Tribune

The Pentagon on Thursday sought to play down the significance of a Defense Department announcement concerning the purchase of fighter jets by Taiwan.

In the past, Taiwan's Defense Ministry has said it expected to start taking delivery of the first of 150 F-16s jets this year that it had agreed to purchase from Lockheed Martin, a U.S. aerospace company.

In addition, Lockheed Martin officials told aviation writers attending the Asian Aerospace show in Singapore last month that initial deliveries of the F-16s to the island would start this July.

But Defense Department officials announced on Wednesday that Taiwan had made its first payment on the $5.8 billion contract and that the first of the jets would be delivered in mid-1997.

The date cited by U.S. officials led to speculation among some analysts that Washington had delayed the delivery of the jets by about a year to avoid inflaming tensions between Taipei and Beijing. But Pentagon officials said Thursday that the delivery date had always been 1997.

Major Clem Gaines, a U.S. Air Force spokesman, said Wednesday's announcement "was the routine implementation" of a contract first announced in late 1992 by President George Bush.

He acknowledged that "in some ways, the timing of the announcement yesterday is interesting," but he added that it was "not calculated to do anything but complete a previously announced contract."

Another Pentagon spokesman said the timing of the announcement Wednesday "has nothing to do with what's going on in the world" and said May 1997 was the delivery date set long ago.

A spokeswoman for Lockheed Martin Tactical Aircraft Systems, which manufactures the F-16 in Forth Worth, Texas, said Thursday that the company had "agreed with the Taiwan authorities not to discuss delivery dates." She declined further comment.

A Defense Ministry spokesman in Taipei said he could not comment on the delivery question.

The contract for the high-performance jets, which includes the transfer of technology to Taiwan, is to be completed by the end of 2000.

The F-16 deal with Taiwan has long been attacked by China as a serious cause of tension and a breach of agreements under which Washington recognized Beijing as the sole government of China, including Taiwan.

Andrew Yang, secretary-general of the Chinese Council for Advanced Policy Studies in Taipei, said that any delay in the jets' delivery would take on the hue of a "diplomatic maneuver" by the United States to reduce the risk of an attack on Taiwan by Chinese armed forces.

Mr. Yang said China had already taken delivery of 26 Su-27 advanced fighter jets from Russia, with an additional 24 due to be delivered soon, probably by the end of the year.

Since Friday, Beijing has fired four ballistic missiles close to Taiwan and has staged maneuvers in the Taiwan Strait with dozens of ships and aircraft, including some of the Su-27s.

Beijing said the exercises were intended to deter pro-independence sentiment on Taiwan ahead of the island's first presidential elections, on March 23. In response, Washington has sent a powerful naval force, including two aircraft carriers, to the area.

Pupils at an elementary school in Taipei covering their faces Thursday during an air raid drill.

BRIEFLY ASIA

4 of 5 Firms Accused in Japan Settle Contaminated Blood Suit

TOKYO — Four of the five drugmakers accused by Japanese AIDS victims of selling them contaminated blood products said Thursday that they had accepted the basic terms of a court-proposed settlement of damage suits.

About 400 hemophiliacs infected with the virus that causes AIDS sued the five companies and the government.

The settlement provides for a one-time payment of 45 million yen ($440,000) to each claimant and monthly payments of 150,000 yen to those who developed AIDS, or the acquired immune-deficiency syndrome.

The government is to announce Friday its acceptance of the compromise. *(AFP)*

China Offers Indians Passports

HONG KONG — Hong Kong's ethnic Indian minority on Thursday cautiously welcomed an assurance from Beijing that they could have Hong Kong Chinese citizenship after the British colony reverts to Beijing's control in mid-1997.

But the Indian Resources Group, which is fighting for right of abode in Britain for the Indian residents, said Chinese citizenship was not a practical option for many members of the community, most of whom are not literate in Chinese.

China's top official in charge of Hong Kong affairs, Lu Ping, gave the assurance on citizenship during talks this week with an international business group that visited Beijing. An estimated 7,000 non-Chinese, mainly Indians, fear being stateless when Hong Kong reverts to China next year. *(Reuters)*

China Urged to Protect Labor

BEIJING — A Chinese legislator called Thursday for a new law to protect trade unionists from harassment by employers who she said had intimidated many into failing to stand up for workers' rights.

Numerous officials of the All-China Federation of Trade Unions have been dismissed or their salaries were withheld by employers angry at their activities as workers' representatives, Zhang Ruiying told the National People's Congress, the Xinhua press agency reported. She particularly criticized foreign-funded and private enterprises. Miss Zhang is also vice chairwoman of the labor federation, the only trade union permitted in China. *(AFP)*

For the Record

Brand Karl-Heinz Nierenz, 38, of Germany, was sentenced to 43 years in prison after a court in Bangkok found him guilty of charges relating to sexual abuse of children and producing pornography for sale, a court official said Thursday. *(Reuters)*

VOICES From Asia

President Lee Teng-hui of Taiwan on the Beijing leadership: "They see freedom and democracy, and they are scared to death. They want to scare us and threaten us, but we should know where our strength lies." *(AP)*

Surya Bahadur Thapa, president of the Rastriya Prajatantra Party of Nepal, after the party decided against supporting a Communist-led no-confidence vote in Parliament: "To support your offer of overthrowing the democratically established tripartite coalition government would be immoral, unethical and undemocratic. Therefore, we are not prepared to support you move against the present government." *(AFP)*

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TODAY'S
REAL ESTATE MARKETPLACE
Appears on Page 7

PERSONALS

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BOOKS

PAUL GAUGUIN: A Life

By David Sweetman. 600 pages. $35. Simon & Schuster.

Reviewed by Michiko Kakutani

LIKE his friend and colleague Vincent van Gogh, Paul Gauguin has suffered the fate of the artist who achieves enormous posthumous fame in our celebrity-conscious age: Even as his paintings have skyrocketed in value, his life has been mythologized, reduced to a flimsy caricature of bohemian rebellion.

While van Gogh has been turned into a symbol of the tortured artist *maudit*, Gauguin has been memorialized as an avatar of artistic freedom.

Thanks in no small part to his own self-dramatizing boasts and Somerset Maugham's highly fictionalized portrait in "The Moon and Sixpence," he is remembered as the middle-aged stockbroker who gave up everything to search for a new Eden in the South Seas.

Having done a dexterous job of excavating the real van Gogh in his excellent 1990 book "Van Gogh: His Life and His Art," the art historian David Sweetman now tackles Paul Gauguin in this magisterial new biography, attempting to strip away the accretions of legend that have grown up around the artist.

While the resulting volume lacks the emotional immediacy of Sweetman's van Gogh book (no doubt, in part, because Gauguin's own writings lack the extraordinary intimacy and poetry of van Gogh's letters), it provides a compelling chronicle of the painter's life and art.

Although Gauguin was only 54 when he died, his life encompassed the myriad confusions of the 19th century, linking the rigid 18th-century world of his great-uncle, Don Pio de Tristan y Moscosco (the last viceroy of Peru), to the fractured consciousness of the 20th century.

Gauguin would later refer to himself as "a savage from Peru," and as Sweetman points out, the six years he spent in Lima as a child would have a formative effect on his work, shaping both his fascination with distant, exotic lands, and his determination to combine Western and non-Western motifs in his art.

Certainly, Gauguin was never the conventional bourgeois Frenchman that some earlier biographers have made him out to be. The infamous Borgias of Aragon were part of his family tree, and his maternal grandmother, Flora Tristan, earned a fiery reputation in France as "the Workers' Saint" for her socialist and feminist convictions.

Like van Gogh, Gauguin came to his real vocation as a painter (as well as sculptor, ceramicist, printmaker, illustrator and decorator) fairly late in life. Having taken up sketching as a hobby to relieve the boredom of his job on the Paris stock exchange, Gauguin initially used his boom-time riches to wheedle his way into Impressionist painting circles: by buying several canvases by Pissarro, he acquired both a teacher and entrée to the heady world of the avant-garde.

His apprenticeship was slow. By his 37th birthday in 1885, he was a full-time painter whose style, Sweetman writes, "was still an uneasy mix of Barbizon and Pissarro, with only a few extra flourishes of his own."

Gauguin, however, was a determined man with a hunger for new images and ideas, and as he groped his way toward a style of his own, he played with the discoveries of others. He imitated a Cézanne nude, experimented with Degas's pastel colors, studied Delacroix's taste for exaggeration, examined Kate Greenaway's illustrations, and emulated the innovative use of line and color found in Japanese prints.

Gradually, he distanced himself from the Impressionists, eschewing their spontaneity and taste for painting from nature, and emphasizing instead the importance of memory and symbol and feeling.

It was during an 1887 trip to the island of Martinique, Sweetman observes, that Gauguin truly began to come into his own: He embraced a sensuous new palette that banished all vestiges of Barbizon somberness, and adopted a bolder, more decorative technique. They were advances that would come together, gloriously, the following year in "The Vision After the Sermon," a pivotal painting combining the real with the imaginary and the mythic, the first painting in which Gauguin found his own distinctive voice.

Writing knowledgably about the painters and painting schools that swirled through 19th-century Paris, Sweetman nimbly situates Gauguin among his many mentors, rivals, colleagues and disciples.

Michiko Kakutani is on the staff of The New York Times.

WHAT THEY'RE READING

• **Robert Wilson**, theater director, has just finished reading "*The Art of the South Pacific*" by Anthony Meyer.

"It talks about the art of the South Pacific, its symbols and meanings and how they can be traced to the Mayans and other cultures in other parts of the world."

(Douglas Sutton, IHT)

BRIDGE

By Alan Truscott

THE oldest major championship in bridge, the Vanderbilt Knockout Teams, was first played in 1928. In recent play the most dramatic deal from its Open Pairs competition is shown on the diagram.

In the auction, West used an artificial gadget: after the opening one-spade bid had been doubled, North bid one no-trump to show a club suit, since two clubs would have been an artifical raise of spades.

West was intending to show his spade support on the next round, but was not expecting to have to do so at the five-level. That sounded good to his partner, given his knowledge about the club suit, and he continued to six spades. That contract would have succeeded with the help of the spade finesse, since East would eventually discard a heart on the fifth round of clubs. But South perservered to seven diamonds and was doubled, failing by two tricks, a loss of 500, when the heart finesse succeeded.

This was the par result, achieved when both sides do their best. North-South could have permitted East to play four spades, but would have had a worse score than they did by saving vulnerable at the seven-level. It can be noted that if South had made the right decision by saving in diamonds: a save in the known heart fit would most certainly have been a serious error.

NORTH (D)
♠ K 5 4
♡ 9 6 5 3
◇ A 10 7 5
♣ 9 6

WEST
♠ J 9 3
♡ 8 7 2
◇ 6 3
♣ K Q 7 5 3

EAST
♠ A Q 10 8 7 6 2
♡ K 10
◇ —
♣ A 10 4 2

SOUTH
♠ —
♡ A Q J 4
◇ K Q J 9 5 4 2
♣ J 8

Both sides were vulnerable. The bidding:

North	East	South	West
Pass	1 ♠	Dbl.	1 N.T.
2 ♡	4 ♠	5 ◇	5 ♠
Pass	6 ♠	7 ◇	Dbl.
Pass	Pass	Pass	

West led the club king.

EUROPE

A New Look at Swiss Neutrality

Defense Chief Eyes NATO's Partnership for Peace

By Robert L. Kroon
Special to the Herald Tribune

BERN — The Swiss defense minister, Adolf Ogi, is pressing ahead with a plan that only a few years ago would have been political suicide in a country where neutrality is Holy Writ: He wants Switzerland to join NATO's Partnership for Peace this year.

Mr. Ogi, one of the most internationally minded ministers in the seven-member Swiss cabinet, says the time has come to bring his conservative countrymen up to speed with the real world. But it remains unclear whether he can convince the rest of the government to go along.

"Until 1989, Switzerland's foreign policy amounted to little more than a service industry for international conferences," Mr. Ogi said in an interview. "We will have to convince our people that this country should play an active role in today's Europe, and NATO is one of the main pillars of European security. It is strange that we have fewer formal contacts with NATO than every former adversary of the alliance."

Mr. Ogi views Partnership for Peace — which the North Atlantic Treaty Organization designed to gradually bring Eastern Europe under its umbrella — as a good formula, since the partners can determine the "range, content and speed of their involvement."

Some East European countries consider the Partnership as a first step toward full NATO membership, and many Swiss conservatives suspect Mr. Ogi's overtures carry the risk of active involvement with the Western defense system. Not so, he says.

"NATO's enlargement process takes place outside the Partnership framework," he said, "and many of the 27 PFP participants have neither the wish nor the perspective of full NATO membership. The Partnership concept is political and not legally binding." As such, joining it falls within the executive powers of the federal government and does not require parliamentary approval.

That may be a good thing, because the defense minister is "not quite sure" that even this noncommittal link with NATO would survive Parliament's scrutiny. In fact, Mr. Ogi said it was "too early to tell" whether his partnership crusade will get the blessing of the full cabinet.

After the signing of the agreement to bring peace to Bosnia-Herzegovina, the Swiss Defense Department granted NATO transit rights through Switzerland for forces en route to Bosnia. So far there have been 250 overflights by NATO transport and combat aircraft. Mr. Ogi said the operations are still going on and "have been well received by the people."

The Defense Department is also readying a company of Swiss soldiers to supervise elections in Bosnia this fall, under the aegis of the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe, of which Switzerland holds the presidency this year. To minimize political turbulence in the conservative Swiss-German cantons, the Swiss soldiers will be unarmed and wear yellow berets for easy identification.

The yellow berets, Mr. Ogi said, are a "gesture of solidarity with the Dayton agreement."

He added: "Helping to bring peace to the former Yugoslavia also serves our own national interests. We have carried a large burden by helping refugees of this conflict inside and outside Switzerland. There are 400,000 people from ex-Yugoslavia here and that amounts to almost 5 percent of the Swiss population."

With no potential invaders in sight, does neutrality still make sense in Europe today? Mr. Ogi conceded that many Swiss have a "somewhat conservative perception of neutrality. It is a long-term tradition that you cannot assume and discard at your leisure." Besides, he added, armed conflict in Europe, let alone the rest of the world cannot be ruled out.

"We do not yet see a comprehensive European security system that would offer us better security guarantees than our armed neutrality. If this situation should change, we would have to take another look at our neutrality."

That kind of bold talk has made him a controversial figure, even among some of his cabinet colleagues, but that does not seem to worry him.

Mr. Ogi was president of Switzerland in 1994, a one-year honorary post assumed in turn by each of the seven cabinet members, and, as he has noted, "you cannot go any higher in Swiss politics." It is no secret that the 54-year-old Mr. Ogi, a skier and mountain climber, is a hot contender to succeed Juan Antonio Samaranch as president of the International Olympic Committee.

Jockeying to Rule Italy: Heights of 'Byzantinism'

By Daniel Williams
Washington Post Service

ROME — Italy's national election campaign is a festival of confusion, betrayal, name-calling and trickery. And it doesn't really start until Monday.

The election of a new Parliament is supposed to rescue Italy from the meanderings of four governments that have

NEWS ANALYSIS

taken power in the fouryears since the collapse of an old and discredited political system. But the way things are shaping up, the April 21 poll will only deepen the country's political morass. Electoral rules that were designed three years ago to concentrate political forces into two stable blocs instead gave birth to an array of small parties. Some of them will end up sharing the balance of power in Parliament, no matter how tiny a percentage of the vote they control.

That means the first order of business of the large parties is to form electoral alliances with the small ones. The horse-trading is not over programs but over how many seats can be shared around. As a result, hard-core Communists are in league with free-market bankers, free-spending social democrats with budget cutters, federalists with big-government populists, devout Catholics with politicians who want to liberalize drug laws.

"The complex of complications has grown," wrote a political scientist, Giovanni Sartori, in Corriere della Sera. "If two years ago the so-called alliances were already in a heap, now they are masterpieces of Byzantinism."

Alliances are shifting by the day, and it will not be clear who is running with whom until lists of candidates are presented Monday, when the two main blocs finally will take shape. The opposing sides already are calling each other Fascists and Communists.

The rightist Freedom Alliance will be headed by former Prime Minister Silvio Berlusconi, who holds the distinction of being the first Italian to run for prime minister while fighting bribery charges in court. He is joined in the campaign by the neo-fascist National Alliance, headed by Gianfranco Fini, as well as two remnants of the old Christian Democratic Party and a small party headed by Marco Panella, who wants to legalize hashish. Already, the former Christian Democrats have walked out of and returned to the alliance, Mr. Panella is wavering, and many analysts believe Mr. Fini is hoping that Mr. Berlusconi will be convicted so Mr. Fini can take over.

The center-left Olive Tree coalition is nominally led by Romano Prodi, a former business executive and college professor who has never held elected office. But the incumbent caretaker, Prime Minister Lamberto Dini, a former central banker, is being promoted as the Olive Tree's candidate for prime minister. In any case, both are subordinate to Massimo D'Alema, the head of the Democratic Party of the Left.

He says it is too soon for him to run for prime minister, although it has been 20 years since he last mamboed in Fidel Castro's Cuba as a die-hard Communist. He says the coalition needs either Mr. Dini or Mr. Prodi to moderate his party's image. To the left is a reminder of that controversial past: the Communist Refoundation Party, which still chachas to Stalinist rhythms. It says it will support an Olive Tree coalition through election day, but in Parliament, its vote will depend on who is prime minister.

One other major party, the Northern League, is allied with no one. It hopes to pick up the support of discontented voters in the wealthy Lombard region, and then obtain favors for the region in exchange for its support in Parliament.

Mrs. Yeltsin's Roving Boris

The Associated Press

MOSCOW — Boris N. Yeltsin is a considerate man who has a way with words and also a way with other women, according to the president's wife.

In a frank interview published Thursday, Naina Yeltsin defended her husband's personality and politics, but acknowledged that his flirting over the years has bothered her.

"We never have quarreled. Even our children were surprised by that," Mrs. Yeltsin said in an interview with the popular weekly Argumenty i Fakty. "He would always find the right words to convince you, and in such a way that you won't feel offended."

She acknowledged that during an otherwise happy 40-year marriage there have been some unpleasant moments for her.

"Of course, I sometimes felt hurt and displeased. He always was very gallant at parties and never spared a compliment to women," she said. "And they always noticed him."

Mrs. Yeltsin made it known last year that she opposed his running for re-election.

Victor Vasenin/Agence France-Presse

FULL HOUSE — Inmates in the Butyrskaya prison in Moscow passing the time on Thursday. The prison holds up to 70 prisoners in cells that were built to hold 30, and some have to wait up to two years for trial.

BRIEFLY EUROPE

Greece Won't Ratify EU Treaty

ATHENS — Greece will not ratify the Schengen Treaty on European crime prevention because of fears that personal privacy laws will be violated by a centralized computer database.

In remarks published Thursday, Justice Minister Evangelos Venizelos told Parliament that Greece, a signatory to the treaty, will not ratify it.

Under the treaty, which took effect March 26, 1995, seven of the 15 European Union countries agreed to lift their border restrictions, and Greece was to be the eighth. The aim is to create a borderless European Union.

As part of the treaty, a computer system in Strasbourg will help track criminals.

Of the 3.7 million files on individuals and stolen goods in the computer, 2.4 million have been supplied by German authorities and 1.2 million by the French. Spain has provided 80,000 files, the Netherlands 37,000, Belgium 28,000, Portugal 16,000 and Luxembourg 3,000. *(AP)*

Russia Warns Poles Over NATO

WARSAW — The Russian foreign minister, Yevgeni M. Primakov, flew to Poland on Thursday to press home Moscow's opposition to Polish membership of NATO, which Russian says would be a threat to its security.

Mr. Primakov held brief talks with his counterpart. Dariusz Rosati, and was scheduled to meet Prime Minister Wlodzimierz Cimoszewicz and President Aleksander Kwasniewski during his two-day visit. *(Reuters)*

Calendar

European Union events scheduled for Friday:

BRUSSELS: The social affairs commissioner, Padraig Flynn, meets the Irish junior labor minister, Eithne Fitzgerald.

ROME: The commissioner for humanitarian aid and fisheries, Emma Bonino, participates in a seminar called "Single currency and new forms of payment."

FONTANAFREDDA, Italy: The internal market commissioner, Mario Monti, speaks to the Italian Bankers' Association on "the internal market and financial services under a single currency."

STRASBOURG: The European Parliament questions the Commission on international and multinational fishing accords. *Sources: Agence Europe, AFP*

French Lab Completes 'Map' of Human Genes

Agence France-Presse

LONDON — A final "map" of the human gene system, of enormous value to the treatment of genetic diseases, was published here Thursday in the British scientific magazine Nature, marking a triumph for French and American researchers.

The new map, developed by the Genethon laboratory, in Every, France, pinpoints 5,264 markers to help scientists work out the human genome, the complete genetic makeup of the body's cells, by the target date of 2005.

"This publication is the climax of work on the genetic map," said Jean Weissenbach, the head of the Genethon team.

"It will act as a reference for all the researchers who are using the data and knowledge that we have already put freely at their disposal."

The genetic map, a refinement of one produced by the lab in 1993, will provide researchers with a valuable tool in hunting the genes responsible for more than 3,000 known hereditary diseases.

Also on Thursday, Nature published a genetic map of the mouse, worked out by Eric Lander, head of the Whitehead Institute at the Massachusetts Institute of Technology.

The United States initiated an international effort, the Human Genome Project, in 1990 to determine the complete sequence of the three billion base pairs that constitute the 23 chromosomes of human cells and to identify the 100,000 or so genes that define the human species.

Francis Collins, Director of the National Human Genome Center in Bethesda, Maryland, was quoted as saying, "The scientific community is greatly indebted to Weissenbach, Lander and their colleagues."

He added: "The genetic mapping goals essentially complete for now, we look forward to completion of the second phase, a physical map of the human genome, which is expected in about a year."

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Herald INTERNATIONAL Tribune
PUBLISHED WITH THE NEW YORK TIMES AND THE WASHINGTON POST

Media for the Balkans

Before the killing started in Bosnia, hateful nationalist propaganda from official Serbian media helped prepare the ground. That is why the current campaign by President Slobodan Milosevic of Serbia to harass and suppress independent broadcasters and newspapers warrants special attention and protest from abroad. Croatia's President, Franjo Tudjman, has also engaged in forms of media harassment. The Dayton agreement, which both presidents signed, cannot produce a lasting peace in the former Yugoslavia unless independent voices have a chance to counter the sometimes inflammatory official media line.

Earlier this year, Serbian authorities took over Belgrade's leading television and radio broadcaster, Studio B, which had remained independent throughout the Bosnian war. B92, another radio station, has been jammed when it covered opposition parties. Meanwhile, the Milosevic regime has done all it can to prevent the independent daily newspaper Nasa Borba from obtaining office space and newsprint.

Then, late last month, the government dealt a financial blow to all independent media by revoking the registration of the U.S.-based Soros Foundation, forcing it to close down operations in Serbia and Montenegro. The foundation has been a major donor to independent publishers and broadcasters.

In Croatia, recent pressures have been less drastic but still troubling. The authorities forced one independent radio station off the air just before the Dayton conference, and pro-government media have caricatured the Soros Foundation's activities.

The U.S. State Department and the European Union have both officially protested the closure of the Soros Foundation, which has now applied for a new license. The outlook for Studio B is grimmer. All independent outlets in Serbia and Croatia lead endangered lives and are in almost constant need of outside support and encouragement.

Preventing new violence in the Balkans depends not just on respecting cease-fire lines but also on allowing voices of pluralism to counter incitements to hatred. Mr. Milosevic will persuade the world of his conversion to peace, and Mr. Tudjman of his commitment to democracy, only when they show themselves willing to reinforce the Dayton agreement by letting independent voices be heard.

— THE NEW YORK TIMES.

Incumbents in League: Peres, Yeltsin, Clinton

By William Safire

SAN FRANCISCO — Three of the world leaders who gathered at Sharm el-Sheikh in Egypt — Shimon Peres, Boris Yeltsin and Bill Clinton — are actively campaigning to remain in office. It is as if they were running mates on an international incumbency ticket, with each having an intense interest in helping the others win.

Can these three political musketeers bring it off together? Or will the weakness of any one of them help drag down the other two?

The calendar puts President Clinton in the best position to help his global running mates. Election day in Israel comes at the end of May, in Russia two weeks later, in the United States more than four months after that.

Mr. Clinton also has the greatest incentive to come to the ticket's support, because he has identified his policies with those of Prime Minister Peres, and been a rooter for President Yeltsin. Their failure might well contribute to his own.

So, to shore up Shimon Peres:

Mr. Clinton has invested heavily in identifying himself with the initiative begun by the Israeli. Despite Mr. Clinton's brief protocol appointment with the opposition leader Benjamin Netanyahu during Thursday's stop in Israel, nobody doubts that the loftily named "peacemakers' summit" and subsequent visit to terror-tortured Israel were designed to stop the plummeting polls of Mr. Peres.

The Peres ratings will probably be blipped upward by the emergency visitation. Jews had to be somewhat reassured by the sight of Arab summiteers (notably excepting Syria, which supports the terror process) agreeing to a statement of "strong condemnation of all acts of terror ... including recent terrorist attacks in Israel."

Getting Arabs to sign on to that has meaning. Credit Mr. Clinton with good arm-twisting to get that language, although it was vitiated by a promise to pay money to Yasser Arafat's organization even before he proves his ability to root out Palestinian terror.

Israelis may not forgive Mr. Peres for gambling with lives by subcontracting anti-terrorism to Mr. Arafat, but they have to notice how Mr. Clinton stands by his South Lawn guests.

To shore up Boris Yeltsin:

Mr. Clinton has his work cut out for him there. Mr. Yeltsin's polls remain in single digits for good reasons. His promises to end the carnage in Chechnya have been broken, with a recent rebel raid embarrassing the army. He has tightened his control of state television and fired free-market economists, alienating reformers. He has failed to protect Serbian war criminals, infuriating extreme nationalists.

But Mr. Clinton used his influence on the International Monetary Fund to extend Russia a multibillion-dollar loan, bolstering Mr. Yeltsin's prestige in the run-up to elections.

Next month, Mr. Yeltsin will host Mr. Clinton and other Group of Seven leaders at a summit in Moscow, partly to talk about nuclear safety, partly to appear side-by-side with Mr. Clinton on Russian and American television, campaigning together in the same media-sensitive way that Mr. Clinton has done on Wednesday in Sharm el-Sheikh and on Thursday in Tel Aviv with Mr. Peres. To avoid embarrassing Mr. Yeltsin, Mr. Clinton will dismay Eastern Europe by downplaying NATO enlargement.

Mr. Clinton knows that Mr. Yeltsin will immediately take his election campaign to China, signing a treaty settling old border disputes while selling China more advanced warplanes. Mr. Clinton will be tempted to let the Russian carry a message to Beijing about Taiwan; such a role, playing Russia's new China card, might cause proud Russians to see Mr. Yeltsin as a global superpower broker.

Thus do candidates in Washington, Moscow and Jerusalem work in unprecedented harmony. They believe it to be in their nations' interests and in their personal political interests as well.

The question in each case is this: Does the image of a leader bestriding the world scene decisively affect voters' behavior — or will voters see this alliance of incumbents as merely a pose to distract attention from problems at home or from worries about their leaders' characters?

My guess is already on the record: If Mr. Peres, Mr. Yeltsin and Mr. Clinton all lose office this year, I will collect the Pundits' Trifecta with its deliciously long odds. If all three leaders win, however, the lesson will be plain: In presidential politics, hands across the sea can wash each other.

The New York Times.

News Lasts and Lasts

Technology, still on the move, has a way of changing the terms of debate over whether and how cyberspace can or should be regulated. The latest example is the emergence of an unnerving new technology that goes by the name Deja News. Deja News is an Internet search program that is capable, when fed a name, of retrieving every instance of that name's having been mentioned anywhere in the public areas of cyberspace — including many, such as the so-called newsgroups and bulletin boards, that participants have been accustomed to treat as ordinary conversations that vanish into the ether after a few days. Since a fair number of these newsgroups have sprung up for the purpose of hosting conversations on off-color topics, a great many people are now in roughly the position of those Bush White House officials who didn't know that the system was saving copies of their e-mail about Iran-contra.

It's not that the conversations in question are necessarily about anything illegal. But, as with the scanners that feed your grocery-buying preferences into a database and send you catalogues based on what you buy, or the telephone companies that sell your name and profile to a dozen junk mail cooperatives, this self-cataloguing Internet presents a rather different sort of "space" and "speech" from what many using it have imagined till now.

One likely short-term effect will be to drive a lot of conversation out of the public areas that worry the would-be censors — such as the 200 newsgroups that the Internet provider Compuserve briefly blocked from access at the request of nervous prosecutors in southern Germany — and into protected spaces such as e-mail subscription lists. With any luck, it will not only undercut the argument for censorship of the sort now under court challenge (the Communications Decency Law, which would criminalize the transmission of what is characterized as indecent material to minors) but also render it entirely beside the point.

The arrival of such technologies as Deja News underlines the strange nature of speech on the Internet and the new ways in which it divides up — not just into the familiar divisions of private versus public, but also into a new category that might be called super-public. In this category, what appear to be ordinary conversations turn out to be a lot more like electronic newspaper archives, existing in a sort of eternal present for anyone who happens to have the right tools.

— THE WASHINGTON POST.

How Not to Write

A curriculum guide for teaching English has just been released in a tongue barely recognizable as English. The original idea was a good one. Everyone wants to learn English, the lingua franca of airports and the Internet, of rock music and arcane scientific journals. Then why not recommend national standards for instruction so that, at the very least, American high school students can become more polished users of their own language? To that end, the Bush administration in 1992 established a panel at the Department of Education. Later, President Bill Clinton gave his support to developing national curriculum standards.

When outside assessors decided that the panel was ineffective, its public funding ended and the task was carried on by the National Council of Teachers of English and the International Reading Association. Given their professional credentials, these two groups could have produced a clear, candid case for greater competence in standard English, with its ample vocabulary and its simple yet supple grammar. Instead, the guideline writers quickly vanished into a fog of euphemism and evasion.

Nowhere in their list of 12 basic rules will you find the prescriptive verbs "should" or "ought." Simple declarative sentences are equally hard to find. The rules ooze with pedagogical molasses, as in No. 5: "Students employ a wide range of strategies as they write and use different writing process elements appropriately to communicate with different audiences for a variety of purposes." What, pray tell, are "writing process elements"?

The only plausible reason one can think of for such circumlocutions is that the writers were paralyzed by caution. Last year, a panel of educators proposed similar guidelines for teaching history. Their daring and thoughtful report provoked widespread controversy and unfair caricature.

Perhaps with that example in mind, the authors talk about "a variety of literacy communities" and "word identification strategies." Who can differ with them, since nobody can know what they mean?

— THE NEW YORK TIMES

Other Comment

The Murder of Children

The Dunblane school massacre Wednesday morning is an act that goes beyond ordinary human comprehension. The deed of Thomas Hamilton seems to render fatuous, in its monstrous irrationality, all attempts at remedy or prevention. Yet rationality must cope.

The most serious danger that tragedies like this one present to all those who are touched by them is the risk of an absolute loss of hope. The belief that life is worth living is robust in most people. It has been known to survive almost unimaginable cruelty and injustice. But the murder of children is the ultimate test of faith.

Of all the losses which may be encountered in an individual's life, that of a child is probably the closest to being beyond consolation.

— The Daily Telegraph (London).

The Trouble China Makes Will End Up Hurting China Itself

By Flora Lewis

HONG KONG — For years the conventional wisdom here has been that Beijing would deliver strictly as promised on the "one country, two systems" deal when it takes over Hong Kong next year, because of the influence on Taiwan. Taiwan was watching ever larger trade and exchange with mainland China, to the great profit of both.

Now the direction of concern has reversed. Hong Kong is nervously watching Taiwan for signs of Beijing's mood and intentions, wondering what it means for its own future.

Nobody doubts that this British colony will revert to Chinese sovereignty in 15 months. But despite what one official called Beijing's recent "charm offensive" here, unease is rising again about how much life will change under China's rule.

There isn't really fear of war or invasion in the region. It seems just too preposterous, although Beijing's extravagant show of force around Taiwan clearly risks the use of arms by accident or miscalculation. It does display that a China busily modernizing and gaining wealth is not so preoccupied with economics, so predictably and reliably intent on good relations with the world at large, as many want to believe.

Politics has the upper hand again in Beijing, apparently regardless of the cost in terms of business relations. Both the military gestures and the remarkably belligerent noises from China's leaders are evidence that the army is gaining dominant influence.

It is seen here as a sign of weakness at the center, not of strength, a sign that the battle for succession to the moribund Deng Xiaoping is unsettled and that the army intends to have the decisive word.

The campaign is certainly counterproductive in terms of China's foreign policy and its demand for unification with Taiwan. But provoking a crisis can help justify the army's budget hunger, which is insatiable despite its own commercial empire of 20,000 economic corporations, overseas as well as at home.

Strangely, to demonstrate the prowess and importance of the military establishment, Beijing has said it is acting to teach Taiwan "a lesson." That is the same phrase Deng Xiaoping used when China launched the invasion of Vietnam in 1979, which ended after two months of disaster. The "lesson" learned was a big spurt in arms acquisition, but a serious loss for China.

Even if it backs off without conflict after the flamboyantly provocative "exercises" around Taiwan, China has already lost quite a lot in confidence and goodwill, without gaining the deference it craves. It isn't clear to the best China watchers whether the leaders really misjudged the reaction, knew and didn't care, or knew and deliberately wanted to stir a crisis. Whichever, it is a bad sign.

The most abrasive issue between Britain and China over Hong Kong has been the attempt to establish a bit of democracy before the takeover. It seems to be democratic elections, much more than F-16s and other arms for Taiwan, that arouse Beijing's ire. This is a reminder that the regime has denounced "peaceful evolution" as the ultimate threat it fears.

There are optimists in Hong Kong, mostly the very rich who not only can afford self-insurance with foreign passports and bank accounts but also feel important and competent enough to deal confidently with Beijing. It is the middle level — civil servants, professionals and the like — who worry most.

Even they are concerned less with democracy ("We've never had much," they say) than with the rule of law and repression of corruption. If those standards decline, so will the economy.

They want to stay, but then they would leave, taking away the skills and money that have made Hong Kong flourish and that China so needs and wants.

Macau nearby, a Portuguese colony due to revert to China in 1999, aspires to be a mini-Hong Kong and is convinced that its transition will go smoothly, but unstable regions don't attract investment.

Now China has called to the world's attention again that it is not only a dictatorship, whose authorities are determined to keep it that way, but an ambitious one, capable of adventures to distract from problems at home.

America's reaction to the performance against Taiwan has been firm and prudent. If nothing happens, President Bill Clinton will have won this round.

China will have solved nothing. The army's dream to complete the national victory it won in revolution on the mainland in 1949, when Chiang Kai-shek fled to Taiwan still proclaiming "one China," will recede ever further. These are not the lessons Beijing set out to teach.

© Flora Lewis.

The Taiwan Strait Crisis Bodes Ill for Hong Kong

By Philip Bowring

HONG KONG — Hong Kong has awakened with a start to the implications of China's escalation of tensions across the Taiwan Strait.

For months its financial market had been behaving as if Taiwan were on a different continent rather than bound to Hong Kong and the mainland in the three-cornered economic relationship known, in happier times, as Greater China. Hong Kong stocks boomed while those in Taipei slumped.

But more sober, and somber, reactions emerge as the short- and longer-term implications of these events just 15 months before the change of sovereignty are absorbed.

At first glance, there is no direct similarity. Hong Kong is not a significant political problem for China, which has obtained most of what it wanted from Britain and now only needs to proceed with the formalities of knocking down the flimsy democratic structure belatedly erected here.

However, for years it has been widely believed in Hong Kong, by locals and foreigners alike, that Beijing would treat Hong Kong with kid gloves in order to set an example to Taiwan of how the "one country, two systems" slogan could work in practice. Liberal and authoritarian systems could coexist within one sovereign state. Continuing prosperity and social freedoms in Hong Kong would convince Taiwan of the merits of coming to a similar deal with mainland "compatriots."

Now it appears that China has moved away from the Deng-era policy of wooing Taiwan with carrots — sweet talk, trade links, investment opportunities and tourism. Now it is the turn of the stick — threats to try to force Taiwan onto a defined reunification path. In such an environment there is little need for Hong Kong to be an example that "one country, two systems" works in practice.

Hong Kong was already worrying over erosion of the "two systems." Now it must doubly worry that, for now at least, being nice to Hong Kong is no longer an integral part of Beijing's Taiwan policy. Meanwhile, the imminence of 1997 allows mainland minds to concentrate nationalist indignation on the Taiwan issue.

The creation of the Taiwan Strait crisis also indicates that economic growth is taking a back seat to nationalist and political issues in China.

Likewise, the priority given to political stability over economic growth evident in recent speeches by Prime Minister Li Peng and others at the National People's Congress is worrying.

Exactly what these signs say about power struggles in Beijing is unclear. But the crisis will undoubtedly hold back foreign investment (by the West and Japan as well as Taiwan) and damage key trade relationships just at a time when most-favored trading status is again an issue in the United States and when China's membership in the World Trade Organization remains unresolved.

Anything which disrupts China's development of economic links with the outside world is bad for Hong Kong.

Even worse is any suggestion of a serious break with America. Hong Kong's future as an international financial center under Chinese sovereignty is directly linked to China's relations with the America and Japan.

Even in the short term there are consequences for a territory where consumer confidence and the property market remain fragile. The Chinese exercises will cause, albeit only briefly, some disruption to Hong Kong-Taiwan and to Hong Kong-mainland shipping, and perhaps to Taiwan-operated factories in southern China that are supplied and export through Hong Kong. Taiwanese tourism spending here (20 percent of the total) will also be hurt.

These losses can be recouped when the crisis subsides. But more fundamental problems revealed by Beijing's belligerence will not go away.

International Herald Tribune.

Big Carrot, No Stick

CHINA sees itself as purposeful and strong and the United States as uncertain. It understands that purpose and will are as important as weapons to the power of a country.

The Clinton team's habit of offering concessions, bribes and rewards, of carrying a big carrot and no stick, has left the Chinese and other bullies feeling that there is nothing to fear from the Americans.

Indulgence of international bullies and lawbreakers encourages the very behavior it seeks to eliminate.

— Jeane Kirkpatrick, in a syndicated column.

Only Israel Can Control Hamas

By Yossi Klein Halevi

JERUSALEM — If the intifada convinced most Israelis that we cannot occupy the Palestinians, the recent wave of terrorist bombings has proved that we also cannot make peace with them.

Contrary to the premise of Wednesday's anti-terrorism conference, the problem of Palestinian violence is not confined to Hamas. It begins with Yasser Arafat himself.

The Oslo peace accord was sold to the Israeli public with the promise that Mr. Arafat would destroy Hamas. Sooner or later, argued Israeli government leaders, he would be forced to uproot Hamas's challenge to his authority.

In fact, his assault against Hamas has been little more than a media stunt. Until recently the script was depressingly familiar. After a terrorist attack against Israel, the Palestinian police arrest Islamic fundamentalists, who are quietly released a few weeks later. At the same time, Mr. Arafat blames right-wing Israelis for secretly arming Hamas.

His absurd response is not just the result of Palestinian pressure. At this stage of Palestinian nation-building, terrorism can be useful. The existence of a radical alternative strengthens Mr. Arafat's international legitimacy as a moderate leader and adds urgency to his demands for additional financing for the Palestinian Authority.

Indeed, it was the growing power of Hamas that initially persuaded a skeptical Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin to accept the Palestine Liberation Organization as a negotiating partner.

Terrorism is also a psychological weapon, which helps ensure continued Israeli territorial concessions. Each new terrorist attack increases the number of Israelis demanding total separation from the Palestinians. The political consequence of that emotional response is greater Israeli acceptance of a Palestinian state.

Thus, while Mr. Arafat may on occasion respond to international pressure and crack down on terrorism, he won't uproot the large-scale Hamas infrastructure that has grown in Gaza, at least for now.

When he addresses his own people, and not international forums, he readily acknowledges the contribution of Hamas to the Palestinian cause. Until the most recent attacks, he had eulogized suicide bombers as holy martyrs and routinely urged Palestinian audiences to prepare for "jihad" — a holy war.

To the foreign press, he has insisted that his version of jihad means nonviolent state-building. Yet Peace Watch, an Israeli group that monitors Palestinian affairs, observes that his jihad speeches "are almost always combined with talk of sacrifice, battles, death and martyrdom."

After the assassination of Mr. Rabin, government ministers and Leah Rabin, his wife, charged that mainstream right-wing leaders had created a hateful atmosphere in which political assassination had become possible. By the same measure, Mr. Arafat must also be held accountable.

In the past, Shimon Peres tried to defend Mr. Arafat, noting that most suicide bombers came from West Bank areas under Israeli or joint Israeli-Palestinian control. But this week he publicly conceded that the Hamas operations center is in Gaza.

For many Israelis, the question is no longer whether Mr. Arafat can be persuaded or pressured to contain Hamas, but whether we are prepared to adequately defend ourselves.

The solution is not, as some right-wingers are hoping, to reoccupy the territories controlled by Mr. Arafat. Instead, Mr. Peres must make clear that the condition for further Israeli withdrawal is the extradition of terrorists arrested by the Palestinian Authority, as stipulated in the Oslo accord.

Should he refuse to comply, as he has until now, Mr. Peres should pursue and arrest terrorists within areas controlled by the Palestinian Authority.

Israel has already paid for empowering Mr. Arafat as its policeman. Wednesday's summit meeting, while useful in morally isolating the terrorists, cannot substitute for an Israeli campaign against Islamic fundamentalists. Ultimately, only Israel can control Hamas.

Yossi Klein Halevi, a senior writer for the newsmagazine The Jerusalem Report and author of "Memoirs of a Jewish Extremist," contributed this to The New York Times.

IN OUR PAGES: 100, 75 AND 50 YEARS AGO

1896: Catching Cancer

PARIS — Discussion has long waged on whether cancer is contagious, with opinion being in favor of the theory of contagion. The following case clearly shows contagion. A small pustule appeared on a surgeon's temple and became cancerous. The surgeon often made dressings for cases of uterine cancer, and, in the absence of hereditary or other antecedents, it had to be admitted he was the victim of involuntary inoculation. Persons who are in attendance upon or who live with cancer patients should, therefore, take the minutest precautions and observe scrupulous cleanliness to guard against contagion.

1921: Flights Barred

WASHINGTON — The Canadian Air Board has decided that from May 1, no United States military, naval or civilian aeroplane will be permitted to fly over Dominion territory pending the organisation in the United States of a body authorised to issue certificates of flight in accordance with the International Air Convention.

1946: Arabs and Jews

JERUSALEM — Immediate immigration of "President Truman's 100,000 displaced European Jews" and prompt practical steps to bring about establishment of a bi-national state were proposed to the Anglo-American Inquiry Committee today [March 14] by Dr. Judah Magnes, president of the Hebrew University. He proposed a government in which Arabs and Jews would have equal rights and responsibilities and suggested that Jews and Arabs be placed immediately "in equal numbers" in many of the Palestine governmental posts now held by the British.

International Herald Tribune
ESTABLISHED 1887
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International Herald Tribune, 181 Avenue Charles-de-Gaulle, 92521 Neuilly-sur-Seine, France.
Tel.: (1) 41.43.93.00. Fax: Circ., (1) 41.43.92.10; Adv., (1) 41.43.92.12. E-Mail: iht@iht.com
Editor for Asia: Michael Richardson, 51 Tanerbun Rd., Singapore 1953. Tel. (65) 372-7798. Fax: (65) 274-2334
Mng. Dir. Asia: Rolf D. Krumpohl, 50 Gloucester Rd., Hong Kong. Tel. 852-2922-1188. Fax: 852-2922-1190
Gen. Mgr. Germany: T. Schluter, Friedrichstr. 15, 60323 Frankfurt/M. Tel. (069) 72 67 55. Fax: (069) 72 75 10
Pres. U.S.: Michael Green, 850 Third Ave., New York, N.Y. 10022. Tel. (212) 752-3890. Fax: (212) 755-8785
U.K. Advertising Office: 63 Long Acre, London WC2. Tel. (171) 836-4802. Fax: (171) 240-2254
S.A. au capital de 1,200,000 F. RCS Nanterre B 732021126. Commission Paritaire No. 61537
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OPINION/LETTERS

Sierra Leone Defies Fear And Heads for the Polls

By William Shawcross

FREETOWN, Sierra Leone — The voters of Sierra Leone are to vote Friday in the second round of elections that may at last give their country a stab at a future.

The first round of the elections, on Feb. 26, though marred by sickening violence in some places, was a triumph for the people of the West African country, which has been ruined by almost three decades of one-party rule and military dictatorship.

On Election Day, about 800,000 people, 60 percent of the registered voters, stood for hours in the heat. In many places they braved gunfire from soldiers rampaging through the streets and intent on disrupting the polls.

In others, like the little town of Bo, in the interior, the elections brought real terror. In the hospital last week I saw scores of people, mostly farmers, who had had their fingers, hands or arms chopped off with machetes to punish them for voting — or to discourage others from doing so.

The victims were unclear about who had perpetrated these horrific crimes against them. Some thought it was the rebels, the shadowy Revolutionary United Front. Others believe it was soldiers pretending to be rebels and intent on upsetting the electoral process. Sometimes these soldier-rebels are called "sobels."

These atrocities underlined the desperate need for an end to military misrule and the devastating civil war from which only the men in uniform profit. By standing up to vote, people made it absolutely clear that they wanted an end to military misrule and a return to civilian government.

The electoral process began last August as the result of pressure on the military regime from the nascent human rights, civic and women's groups in Freetown. It had the support of the British High Commission and the U.S. Embassy, but not of many more embassies.

In the first round, none of the 13 parties won an adequate majority to decide the new presidency. The runoff will be between the two leading contenders, John Karifa Smart of the United National People's Party and Ahmad Tejan Kabbah of the Sierra Leone People's Party.

Assuming the military then keeps its promise to step down, the election will provide a real moment of hope for the 4.5 million Sierra Leonians. Any elected president will face enormous tasks. He will have to get the army, which has expanded from a 4,000-man largely ceremonial affair to a rabble of 15,000, off the streets — where soldiers abuse if not terrorize the people — and back into the barracks. There must be large-scale demobilization.

The basic institutions of civil society, ravaged since the end of the '60s, need to be rebuilt. Trade unions, human rights groups, the bar association, women's groups, journalists — all these need outside support if not training.

The economy must be picked up off the floor. If security can be improved, agriculture can restart. The rutile (titanium dioxide) and bauxite mines can be reopened. Bauxite alone should provide the government with $70 million in foreign exchange a year.

At the moment, the only force capable of providing security in Sierra Leone is Executive Outcomes, a small but heavily armed and very efficient group of South African mercenaries. They were brought in by the military government to protect the northeastern diamond town of Kono. They have swept the "sobels" out and the diamond mines have reopened. Many ordinary people would like them to be more widely deployed to smash the "sobels" elsewhere.

Until security is restored, the more than 1.8 million people who have been uprooted by the war will stay in the towns or in camps for displaced persons. Agriculture will continue to wither so long as farmers know there is a real risk of having their hands chopped off.

If the electoral process is completed, and the military rulers do step aside peacefully as they have promised, the people of Sierra Leone will have done something extraordinary. The new civilian government will have immense problems; it and the country's young but brave civil groups must be given support from the world outside.

Until now, Sierra Leone has been seen as a basket case. With luck it may soon be an example.

The writer is a trustee of the London-based International Crisis Group, which seeks to assist fragile Third World states. His books include "Sideshow: Kissinger, Nixon and the Destruction of Cambodia" and "The Shah's Last Ride." He contributed this comment to the International Herald Tribune.

Collecting Mrs. Clinton, Or Studying Cartoons

By Guy Gugliotta

WASHINGTON — It's probably not much fun to wake up in the morning and find yourself burning at the stake, paddling a canoe over a waterfall, interviewing a couple of pigs or scowling like Richard Nixon.

But that's the way it goes for Hillary Rodham Clinton, who is not delicately treated by the pens of America's political cartoonists. She's smart, she's tough, she's a lawyer and she's a player. No kid gloves for her.

MEANWHILE

A University of Indianapolis English professor, Charlotte H. Templin, first noticed that it was open season on Hillary during the 1992 campaign. By 1993 she decided it would be fun to start clipping cartoons.

Today she's got 400, and last year she presented a paper on them to the International Society for Humor Studies in Birmingham, England. Her co-panelist collected cartoons about the Pope. You get the idea.

"I think Hillary takes more of a rap than she needs to," Ms. Templin said. "People are made uncomfortable by a public and powerful woman. She is clearly not the typical first lady."

Ms. Templin teaches a course on the "Uses of Laughter" and describes herself as a feminist interested in how women are portrayed in literature. Her specialty, however, is literary reputations — how you get one when you're alive, and what happens to it once you're dead.

Hillary Clinton, apparently, should hope for a posthumous change of heart, for Ms. Templin has found that editorial cartoonists have not portrayed her kindly in life. "It's at least 20-to-1 negative to positive," she said.

The first category of cartoons making up nearly half of her collection, are what Ms. Templin calls "Hillary Is Taking Over." These began with several parodies featuring Hillary upstaging Bill Clinton by raising her hand to take the oath of office in 1993, and they continue on from there.

Ms. Templin noted some "favorites," including Wayne Stayskal from the Tampa Tribune with two desks in the Oval Office marked "his" and "hers," and Jeff Stahler's 1992 Cincinnati Post cartoon with Mr. Clinton sitting on a stool for his portrait in the Oval Office while the artist paints Hillary, who is sitting at the president's desk.

"I'm not saying these cartoons are terrible," Ms. Templin said. "The themes are out there, and it's a lot of fun" — but she's not laughing. "I do wonder why we get the same joke over and over again."

There are several Whitewater cartoons featuring Bill and Hillary heading pell-mell toward destruction aboard rafts or canoes, and a couple of Hillary signing copies of "It Takes a Village," then refusing to hand them over, à la the Rose Law Firm papers: "Listen, Mrs. Clinton, we have to release it all to the public, it's our job," explains the shopkeeper in a cartoon by the Chicago Tribune's Jeff MacNelly. "We're a bookstore."

The next category is "Bill and Hillary & Sex," with cartoons depicting Mr. Clinton in drag and Hillary in power. Then there are the "demonizing" cartoons, like The Charlotte Observer's Kevin Siers's 1994 portrayal of Hillary as Richard Nixon, making the "V" sign while Mr. Clinton mumbles in an aside, "Not now, Hillary!"

Some cartoonists occasionally take the high road, and Ms. Templin has a special affection for these.

One offering from the Universal Press Syndicate's Pat Oliphant (a Hillary basher elsewhere) has the Washington press corps conducting a "ritual" burning of Hillary at the stake.

Another by Mike Keefe of The Denver Post features a blank wanted poster of Hillary with Senator Alphonse M. D'Amato, Republican of New York, holding a pencil and remarking "I'll think of something ... by November."

Another, from J. B. Handelsman of The New Yorker, shows a deadpan doctor informing expectant parents: "The good news is that you will have a healthy baby girl. The bad news is that she is a congenital liar."

The Washington Post.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Drop Cuba Sanctions

The British tried sanctions against Mussolini before World War II. All that happened was that everybody else rushed in to fill the gap. The British blockade of Rhodesia was a complete and very costly failure.

After the shooting down of two U.S. civilian planes by Cuba, Washington has imposed even stricter sanctions against Fidel Castro — or, really, against the Cuban people, who have no power to end to the Castro regime.

Sanctions won't work; they will only give Mr. Castro more ammunition to blame all Cuba's problems on Uncle Sam's intransigence. The only way sanctions could work would be if a *cordon sanitaire* was imposed on the island, which would be unacceptable internationally.

Illogical as it may seem, the best way of unseating Mr. Castro would be by lifting the blockade completely and swamping Cuba with American initiative.

MAURICE BAIRD-SMITH.
London.

Turkey and Bosnia

Regarding "A Dangerous Plan for Bosnia" (Opinion, Feb. 17):

I was struck by the naiveté of the article. Wasn't Germany's overt political and covert military aid to Croats instrumental in turning the tide in favor of Croatia and ultimately in panicking the Serbs into a compromise? The fact remains that it was this change in the balance of power between Croats and Bosnian Serbs that stopped the bloody war.

It is also equally clear to me that if Bosnia is not to be gobbled up between Greater Serbia and Croatia in the foreseeable future, it can only be through the deterrence Bosnia can put up in the form of an effective military machine and with strong military and political allies in the region.

Serbs have Russia, Croats have Germany, but the Bosnians cannot trust the Europeans after what has happened over the last five years.

America, although a powerful and fair referee, is simply too detached, geographically and culturally, to be a permanent ally of the Bosnians.

Turkey — a member of the North Atlantic Treaty Organization, a staunch Western ally and a major trade partner of the European Union — is a good ally for Bosnia, both for the Bosnians and the West. However, because Turkey is not a giant, it cannot carry out this task without the help of the United States.

Turkish-Bosnian cooperation will help integrate both countries further into Europe. On the other hand, rejection of this plan, as the author proposes, would push Bosnia toward Iran and could strengthen the rhetoric of the Islamists in Turkey against the West.

HASAN BERCAN.
Brussels.

Parisian Air

Regarding "Pollution Study Calls the Air in Paris a Killer" (Feb. 7):

The article reports French concern that air pollution kills 260 to 350 people a year in Paris, numbers that impressed French scientists, ecologists and the press to the point that they are now urging such remedies as extra taxes on diesel fuel and special lanes for bicycles. These calls to action, however desirable, make one wonder, yet again, at the lack of concern about the most serious air pollutant in Paris — cigarette smoke.

In 1991, for instance, cigarette smoking killed 20 times more Parisians than air pollution. There are laws on the books mandating smoke-free areas in Paris, but a look into any Paris bistro or métro station will show they are not enforced. If the goal of cleansing the air is to save lives, Paris officials should start by controlling cigarette smoke, the most important pollutant by far.

JOHN F. MURRAY.
Paris.

The writer is president of the International Union Against Tuberculosis and Lung Disease.

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PARIS FASHION

The Cult of the Cool

By Suzy Menkes
International Herald Tribune

PARIS — The essence of the avant-garde is that it is leading the forward march. But, as fashion breaks rank, advanced design often turns into a cult phenomenon with only a small following regiment.

Helmut Lang's show Thursday of khaki green cobweb-fine knits and a smattering of lean tailoring received the first ovation of the Paris season as the coolest take yet on military style.

The question is whether he is leading fashion forward or creating a cult of cool. His silhouette is spare, his choice of fabrics subtle. But the power is in nuances that beam out tribal messages: the ribbing on hipster pants; the way sweaters are layered or break into open petals at the elbow. And especially the sparkle of sequins underlaying a dress at breast bone or pelvic area.

The strongly focused show rose above its freezing cold venue to present a powerful image. But it was short on the tailoring that non-initiates, who do not understand transparent dresses, buy for its silent simplicity.

Yohji Yamamoto was another designer testing the faithfuls in Siberian temperatures. But ah! Was it a plot, the better to appreciate the knitted dresses layered one-two-three in shades of mud and slime and in plain, purl and cable stitches? Or those iridescent fake-fur trousers you never knew your thighs would sigh for except at this deep-frozen moment?

The real stuff means exquisitely tailored felt coats, the long silhouette broken with precise seaming; subtle contrasts of dull and shiny textures; a vivid flash of marigold as well as murky military khaki.

But Yamamoto's aesthetic seems mired in black, the color of fashion's cult followers for now — but maybe not forever.

The fuse that blew the lights at Christian Lacroix's show was a metaphor for an on-off collection that started with its hip, junior lines in a tasty mix of color and pattern.

It then turned spotty, as the designer tried to stand like a creative colossus astride fashion's yawning generation gap, sending out not just sweet little-girl coats in succulent tweeds, but clunky call-me-madame cocktail and evening clothes. The throw-it-all-on-the-runway show sparked here and there: a lush kimono; a chenille coat; a wash of autumnal color; black lace overlaid on a white dress.

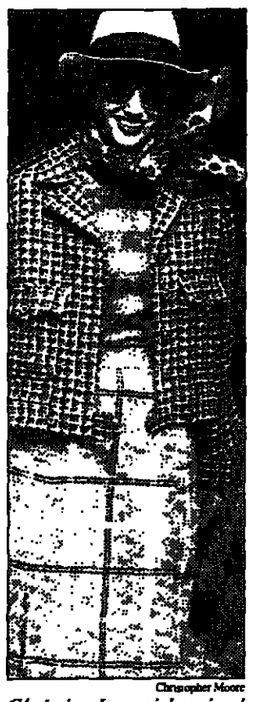
The unifying themes of the mammoth show were the colorful shoes and hose and the sustained brilliance of the accessories, from iridescent boots, through shiny holograned gloves or delectable purses. They justified Lacroix's decision to quit the big runway for a close-up view.

ANN Demeulemeester had sweated so hard as Edwina Scissorhands, slicing off sleeves to turn jackets into togas and winding dresses around the body in a demented corkscrew, that it seems tough to say that this is yesterday's avant-garde. John Galliano once tried a three-sleeve jacket, and all-askew buttoning was where Comme des Garçons and Yamamoto came in 15 years ago.

As an exercise in style, Demeulemeester gets an A for effort. She has a neat take on skinny tailoring and even the toga jackets looked sleek over polo sweaters, complete with gloves (and occasionally silver fingernails). Pink and red knits and an orange coat showed a strong take on color.

Martine Sitbon's show served up military, minimal and flea-market looks, but gave them a dusting of sugar that turned plain into pretty. So the dowdy-is-chic look of plain sweaters and on-the-knee skirts were colored amethyst and lime green; sweet little collared sweaters came in mustard, saffron and mauve; and a tracery of flowers on chiffon made a 1920s look seems modern.

Ethnic futurist was the story from Rifat Ozbek. Caftan dresses were given zip with zippers, eye-popping color and hologram prints were flashed onto the long silhouette. All the trends zapped out on the white vinyl runway: a brassy yellow lace coat over cropped knit; mock-crocodile and Lurex; khaki military jackets and the season's hot flock velvet. The show's fast pace made the most of it.



Christopher Moore

Christian Lacroix's mixed checks in his Bazar line.

Vienna's Homage to Versailles

By Paul Hofmann
New York Times Service

VIENNA — The most poignant sight in Schönbrunn, Vienna's homage to Versailles, is not the white-and-gold Mirror Hall in which the six-year-old Wolfgang Amadeus Mozart in 1762 played before Empress Maria Theresa, nor is it the short iron bed in which old Emperor Franz Joseph died in 1916. It is, at least for me, a little bird. The stuffed crested lark in a glass cage was the pet of Napoléon's son, the "Eaglet" of Edmond Rostand's play, who lived in Schonbrunn as a virtual captive, like his gray-brown warbler, and died there at the age of 21.

A portrait of him as a beautiful child — whom his father had styled King of Rome and his grandfather, the Austrian emperor, would name Duke of Reichstadt — hangs behind the caged bird in the boy's white-and-gold bedroom. Around the corner is the room in which Napoléon used to sleep on a portable field bed among Flemish tapestries depicting military scenes when his troops were occupying Vienna in 1805 and again in 1809.

Napoleonic mementos are some of the many historic and cultural highlights of the nearly 300-year-old Rococo complex that is among the Austrian capital's attractions. On Vienna's southwestern outskirts, Schönbrunn is visited by 1.2 million sight-seers every year.

The large, sumptuous enclave includes a yellow palace that served as the summer residence of the Habsburg emperors and auxiliary buildings — 2,000 rooms in all — in a vast, French-style park with ornamental flower beds, geometrically clipped trees and hedges, and pleasant promenades lined with benches and allegorical marble statuary.

A semiprivate company took over management of Schönbrunn from the government four years ago and tackled several long-delayed restoration projects. It has repaired various fountains, parapets and, above all, the Gloriette, a colonnade with 11 arches on a 200-foot (610-meter)-high hill facing the main palace from 800 yards' distance. The Gloriette's reconstructed roof terrace, open to visitors, looks down on a duck pond and commands a sweeping panorama of Vienna.

The imperial grounds also contain the former court menagerie, a rose garden and a botanical garden. The Palm House, a large, 110-year-old glass-and-steel structure near the eastern wall of the park, houses palms and other tropical plants in three sections, each with a different, climatically controlled environment. Nearby hundreds of live butterflies from Central America and Southeast Asia dance amid exotic flowers in the Sundial House.

On a recent summer day I wandered around the Coach Museum in the former winter riding school adjoining the main palace on its right. On view are scores of historic coaches, sleighs and litters used by the Vienna court between 1690 and 1918 as well as magnificent accouterments and coachmen's liveries. The prize exhibit is a heavily gilded state coach built for Maria Theresa in 1765; drawn by eight grays, it was used for the weddings of the empress's many children and other ceremonial occasions.

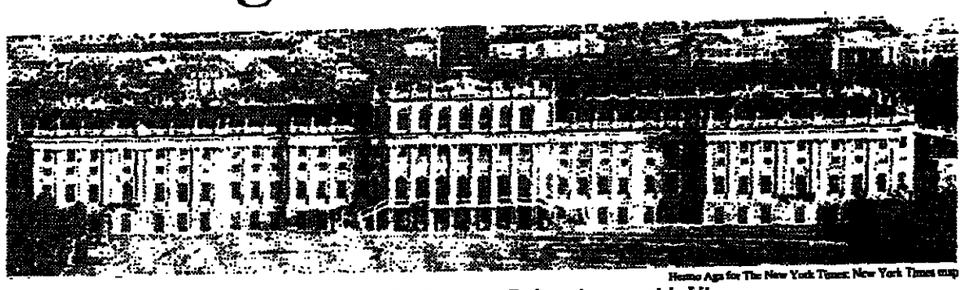
A public outdoor swimming pool and a children's playground are close to the western wall of Schönbrunn Park. State institutes for horticultural and forestry research on either side of the Gloriette Hill are not accessible to the public.

Visitors approaching the entrance to the guided tours pass, on their right, the graceful Rococo building of the former palace theater, which was restored 20 years ago. It serves today as the teaching and experimental stage of the prestigious Max Reinhardt Theater Seminar. Public chamber opera performances are often held in it too; it has 359 seats and standing room for 19 people.

Every summer, Mozart operas and other musical works are produced in the outdoor theater in a clearing in the park amid old trees with faux-Roman ruins as its backdrop.

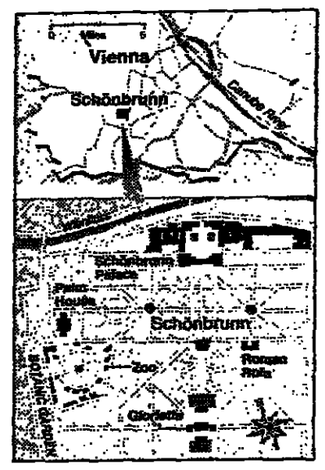
Admission to the vast Schönbrunn gardens, open every day from 6 A.M. to nightfall, is free. This lovingly maintained park with its old oaks, maples, beeches, horse chestnuts, birches and evergreens, and its lush, symmetrical banks of flowers is a public recreation area to which uncounted Viennese flock all year round. The formality of the imperial park with its trees trimmed in the French-baroque gardening mode, its geometrical flower beds, and its avenues laid out in a star pattern is relieved by many secluded corners with shrubbery and fountains, and such Rococo fantasies as an artificial grotto.

Schönbrunn is a monument of the era when it was a matter of pride for Europe's sovereigns — and for lesser princes as well — to boast of their own pleasure palaces on the model of the much envied Versailles. The Habsburgs began to build such a château in the immediate environs of their capital only after the Turks had been pushed back into the Balkans. (During the 16th and 17th centuries, the Sultan's soldiers had repeatedly raided towns and villages around Vienna, and twice unsuccessfully attempted to conquer the city.)



Hanno Aga for The New York Times; New York Times map

Restorations have enhanced the luster of Schönbrunn Palace just outside Vienna.



THE architect Johann Bernhard Fischer von Erlach, a disciple of Bernini, the Roman Baroque master, drew up the plans for an imperial palace at the edge of the hilly Vienna Woods that had long been known as Schönbrunn (beautiful fountain). Emperor Leopold I and his court moved into the half-finished building in 1700.

Leopold's granddaughter, Maria Theresa, one of history's great monarchs, was particularly fond of Schönbrunn. She had the Gloriette built in 1775 to celebrate Austrian military successes in her — ultimately unsuccessful — struggle with Frederick the Great of Prussia over Silesia.

Emperor Franz Joseph (1830-1916) also loved Schönbrunn and was always impatient to escape to there from the historic Habsburg castle, the sprawling Hofburg, at the center of Vienna.

One day last summmer I joined some 30 other visitors in what used to be the Imperial Guards' Room for one of the frequent guided tours. A guide who spoke good, British-accented English first showed us a vast hall where Franz Joseph granted audiences. Adjacent to the hall is Franz Joseph's brown-draped, sparsely furnished study with a small, green-covered desk. Next door is his sober bedroom. Guides point out the first flush toilet that was installed in the palace around 1900; during Maria Theresa's rule and long afterward servants would carry commodes in and out of rooms.

From the old emperor's private quarters we walked across a small, blue wardrobe room to the joint bedroom of Franz Joseph and his empress, the beautiful, Bavarian-born Elizabeth. They rarely slept in their rosewood double bed because the restless, anorexic "Sissi" was forever traveling. It was at Schönbrunn in September 1898 that Franz Joseph learned of his wife's assassination by an Italian anarchist in Geneva.

Paul Hofmann, whose latest book is "The Sunny Side of the Alps," is a native of Vienna.

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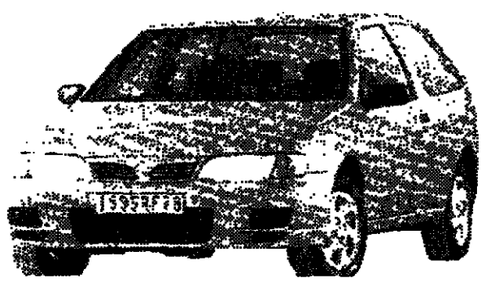

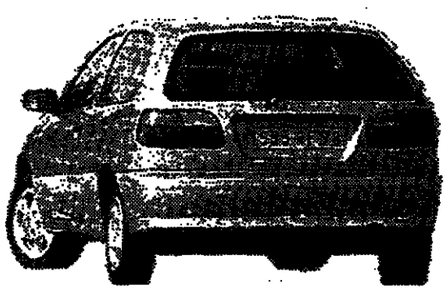

The Nissan Almera Plays It Safe

By Gavin Green

TEN years ago, Margaret Thatcher made a highly significant visit to Washington. It changed the British auto industry forever. She opened the first car factory in the United Kingdom owned by the Japanese.

Washington, in Tyne and Wear — in the northeastern corner of England — is very different from Washington, D.C. Yet it played almost as important a role in Thatcher's prime ministership. It represented the restart of the British car industry.

Nissan has now been joined by Honda and Toyota. They, too, have been attracted by the combination of generous state aid, a skilled and inexpensive workforce, the lack of state bureaucracy and a foreign language they can understand. Britain also has a lot of golf courses. It was an obvious base to get access to the European Union, the world's biggest car market.

Building in Europe coincided, claimed Nissan, with a new philosophy. Nissans sold in Europe are now at least partly engineered for Europe. Well that's the theory anyway.

In fact, the cars are probably still as Japanese as ever. In the old days when European cars were about as dependable as the British weather, a Japanese engineering philosophy was a boon. But now that European cars start and stop when you want them to, it's not enough. Europe has not only sorted out its quality problems, it has also made serious efforts at creating cars that look good and go well. That old European creative flair is firing on all cylinders. Mainstream Japanese sedans just haven't been able to keep up.

Nissan's problems are particularly acute. The company is in poor financial health worldwide. It tried to expand when the world's car industry was contracting. Having thrown caution to the wind, Nissan is now desperately trying to find it again. Forget risk taking. Play it safe: That's the new Nissan order.

And that is the main problem with the new Almera, the company's crucial challenger in the medium hatchback class, Europe's second biggest. Just as Fiat (Bravo/Brava), Renault (Mégane), Rover (new 200) and Peugeot (306) have introduced imaginative styling and fine driving to the sector, Nissan has weighed in with a useful appliance, no more, no less.

The Almera is not a Washington-built car. It's imported from Japan, like all Nissans used to be and most still are. Yet, says Nissan, it has a big "designed for Europe" sticker all over it. The five-door hatchback, as tested, is unique here.

The five-door variant may be special, but — apart from the door configuration — everything else about the Almera is designed for world markets. This is one of the problems. Those mass makers doing best here are designing bespoke cars for Europe — cars that cater to European needs and reflect the greater design sophistication and high-speed driving style (which shows up more dynamic faults) of European motorists. A car designed primarily for conservative Japanese drivers — such as the Almera — which also has to do the business in Europe, is clearly starting with a handicap.

THE Almera's problems start with its styling. It has about as much sex appeal as a fridge. The nose is bland and could just as easily belong to a Toyota or Hyundai, or the last generation of Renaults.

The wagon-like shape of the five-door, with its upright tail, is more novel but poorly executed. There's a clumsiness about the Almera's rump, especially in the back pillars. The square back helps improve rear headroom — which is above class average — and does the trunk size no harm either. Not that the Almera is the class leader in either area.

Inside we find the usual Japanese obsession with cheap plastics. The steering wheel, on our test car, had a thin, hard plastic rim. Every time you touch it, you're reminded of its tactile and visual nastiness. It's cheap.

The handling is O.K. — until you experience one of the new-breed hatches, such as the Bravo/Brava, the 306 or the Mégane. They have a fluency around bends and over bumps that the Almera just can't match. Dynamically, the Almera is state-of-the-art early '90s. But that's like a tennis pro discovering he's at last as good as Stefan Edberg, only to find out there's a new guy called Pete Sampras on the court. In the past few years, much has changed.

One thing that never alters is the tidiness of Japanese-build quality. The Almera is immaculately made, tight of fit and well painted. No doubt the Almera will also be seamlessly reliable (its predecessor, the Sunny, was well regarded for that — although that was about the only thing it was exceptional at).

Add good fuel economy and Nissan's decision to price the Almera cheaply in most European markets (a sure sign that Nissan knows it's up against it) and it isn't too difficult to make a case for this competent but unexceptional little car. If you want inexpensive A-to-B transport that will probably not let you down, then here's a good bet. But if you want a little more, there are many better choices.

For Nissan to succeed in Europe, it will take more than a nice new factory in England and cars that, it claims, are partly designed for Europe. Nissan bosses in Europe know this and, in private, will admit as much. The will to change, and to succeed, is there. But they are at the mercy of their engineers and designers in Japan, currently being briefed to play it safe. Unless it can begin to match the flair of the better home teams in Europe, Nissan will be consigned to an also-ran role here. Competence is no longer enough.

Next: The Renault Mégane

Gavin Green is the editor-in-chief of Car magazine.

The Baggage Wrack: Travel Lite

By Roger Collis
International Herald Tribune

DECISIONS, decisions. Do I want to check this baggage, which is sure to miss my connection in Frankfurt or end up in Tokyo? Or do I take it as hand baggage and risk being stripped of all but one piece by an officious check-in clerk? Or else succumb to Schlepp's Law — the weight of hand baggage is directly proportional to the walking distance to the gate. I can think of worthier causes to test my management style.

You may be able to solve this dilemma by traveling light, I mean really light, say a briefcase that hooks on a carry-on suitcase, preferably with wheels and a telescoping handle.

This is the age of downsizing. Road warriors of the millennium travel light and travel mean with chiliastic zeal. We have seen the emergence of Lite (no-frills) airlines. Look out now for the Lite Traveler.

Lite Travelers want a hassle-free trip; they like to be independent, in control, which means "don't let anything get in my way and mess up my schedule."

No self-respecting Lite Traveler checks baggage. And when it come to carry-ons every ounce counts. Ounces add up to pounds. And while sterling may not carry much weight these days, avoirdupois does. Lite Travelers don't bother with pajamas or thermal underwear. Jettison that rack of ties, spare shoes and the jacket you know you'll never need to make room for your palm-top computer and state-of-the-art digital mobile phone.

The Lite Traveler prepares for a trip by emptying the briefcase of everything left over from last time. This is known as zero-base packing. Be ruthless with paper. Mail or fax stuff in advance; and refuse to carry anything back with you.

Traveling for up to a week in summer, I can get away with a lightweight beige jacket, a pair of black trousers, three shirts, two of my less vulnerable ties, and black loafers that can look formal or informal. Shirts are important: a fresh dress shirt can redeem a tired jacket. My wash gear consists of an airline amenity kit plus two disposable razors, Alka-Seltzer and heavy duty antacid tablets tucked into my briefcase.

In winter I am compelled to take my 36-hour Hong Kong suit and maybe an overcoat. The trick is to stash formal/leisure clothes in strategic left-luggage lockers around the world.

Conferences can be sartorial minefields for the Lite Traveler. I don't know which is worse; turning up in an all-purpose business suit, or trying to imagine what is meant by "smart casual."

At a recent conference in Orlando it meant open-neck shirts, golfing trousers and those ridiculous multilayered tennis shoes some call "trainers." But the heavy hitters came on dressed as though they were off to a meeting with the security analysts. So I was more or less O.K., except that the Hong Kong suit looked a bit jet-lagged. Still on Hong Kong time, probably.

Women are expert Lite Travelers. Change a blouse, add a few accessories and everyone wonders how on earth they managed to pack so many outfits; from a pinstriped bikini by the bar at the roof-top pool to a long skirt and change of silk shirt with a pearl choker for the welcome cocktail.

However light you travel there's no sure-fire way to avoid a hassle with carry-ons. One solution is to carry your business papers in a giant duty-free bag and stuff everything else into a folding garment bag-cum-suitcase-briefcase.

The Frequent Traveler

□

Virgin Atlantic is starting a service between London (Heathrow) and Johannesburg in mid-July 1996, a welcome challenge to the duopoly of British Airways and South African Airways on the route. Flights will initially be thrice-weekly with an Airbus A340-300, building up to a daily schedule in the winter.

□

A new Sheraton at Paris Charles-de-Gaulle Airport means that you can avoid Paris (if you must) by staying out at the airport. A tad austere — if not downright masochistic. But it could be just the ticket for a business meeting, or rest and recreation before jetting off to another airport city.

The hotel — which opened on Valentine's Day — is right above the new TGV railway station in the heart of Terminal 2, with Eurostar links to Lille, Brussels and Amsterdam and high-speed links with the south of France. It is two minutes from the check-in desks. And has pretty well all that you'd expect from a business hotel — good restaurants; four-hour laundry service for the Lite Traveler; fitness center and business services.

□

Travelers accustomed to having unlimited third-party liability insurance may be driving into a legal minefield when renting a car in the United States or Canada. You may only be covered for a mandatory limit on personal liability. Some states have limits as low as $10,000 for bodily injury and $5,000 for property damage.

Make sure you have "top-up" liability insurance. This will cost around $6 a day for $1 million coverage. Major car rental firms will offer you this. Don't treat it as another come-on.

□

Bed & Breakfast (France) may convince you that France is affordable. The guide lists 430 establishments — from grand châteaux to simple farms and private homes "where value for money and a warm welcome count." For example, there's an old Breton bakery at Saint Pierre de Plesquen near Dinan for 200 francs ($40) for two; or a room with breakfast in a 12th-century village house for the same price.

The guide costs £3.50 ($5.25) from P.O. Box 66, Henley-on-Thames, Oxon RG9 1XS, Britain. Tel: (44) 1491-578-803; fax: 1491-410-806.

□

The International Airline Passengers Association (IAPA) in London has launched its own frequent-flier program. For every £100 ($150) spent on airline travel through IAPA Travel Services, members earn 100 IAPA miles in addition to what they earn on airline programs. Upgrades are available with United when you pay full fare. Tel: (44) 181-256-9009; Fax: 181-256-9002.

□

SOS Global Premier card is a new all-inclusive business travel assistance/insurance product for U.S. residents. It combines legal, security and worldwide medical insurance and assistance plus information and telecommunications services in 200 countries. Annual dues of $450 cover multiple trips of up to 45 days. International SOS Assistance, P.O. Box 11568, Philadelphia, Pennsylvania 19116. Tel: (800) 523-8662.

AT A GLANCE: GOOD TRAVEL DEALS

Carrier/Hotel	Location	Deal
AIR FRANCE	Paris	Passengers with a round-trip ticket to Paris from Europe/North America can claim two nights over a weekend with Continental breakfast in a three-star hotel, a bus/metro pass and museum entry. Until March 31.
AIR NEW ZEALAND	United States to New Zealand/Australia	"Time to Go" round-trip economy excursions from Los Angeles to Auckland for $798 and to Sydney for $898. Until March 31.
CALEDONIAN AIRWAYS	Britain to South Africa	Round-trip fares from London (Gatwick) to Cape Town, Durban and Port Elizabeth from £549 economy and £749 business class ($823 to $1,123). From Bluebird Express, tel: (44) 1444-235-678.
DELTA AIR LINES	Trans-Pacific	SkyMiles members who buy one business-class ticket can get a second one for 70,000 miles (normally 90,000) or buy a first-class ticket and get a second one for 100,000 miles (normally 120,000), or upgrade for 25,000 instead of 50,000 miles. For travel between Asia and the United States, Canada, Bermuda, the Caribbean and Mexico. For travel before March 31.
HILTON/AMERICAN EXPRESS	United States	Charge your stay with an Amex card and earn triple miles for every second stay. Until May 15.
INTER-CONTINENTAL	Asia	"Heart of the City" weekend rates for two (Friday, Saturday and Sunday) are available at 15 destinations, for example-Forum Hotel, Shenzhen, China, 590 Hong Kong dollars ($76); Yokohama, 31,000 yen ($295); Sydney, 205 Australian dollars ($157); Seoul, $165; Singapore, 210 Singapore dollars ($150). Until Dec. 1.
SABENA	London to Brussels/Antwerp	Buy two round-trip tickets through Hogg Robinson Travel, tel: (44) 1784-476-800, and get a free third trip. Until March 31.
SHERATON	Paris Charles-de-Gaulle Airport	Introductory rate of 650 francs ($130) instead of 800 francs. Until April 30.
SHERATON HUA TING	Shanghai	Singles/doubles for $130/$140 includes airport transfers, breakfast, use of health club and late check-out till 4 P.M. Until March 31.
SWISSAIR	Switzerland to Asia	Round-trip fares to Bangkok (1,220 Swiss francs, or $1,015); Singapore (1,245 francs); Manila/Hong Kong (1,460 francs); Seoul (1,645 francs) from Zurich, Geneva, Basel or Lugano. Until April 30 for travel until Oct. 31.
UNITED AIRLINES	Paris to San Francisco	Mileage Plus members earn double miles. Until March 31.
USAIR	Paris to Orlando, Florida	Round-trip with car rental and six nights in Clarion Hotel (double occupancy) for 3,995 francs ($799). From Access Voyages, tel: (33) 1-40-13-02-02 or 1-42-21-46-94. Until March 31.
VIRGIN ATLANTIC	United States to Britain	Round-trip fares from $438 (New York-London); $618 (Los Angeles/San Francisco-London) require 45-day advance purchase and minimum stay of five days.

Although the IHT carefully checks these offers, please be forewarned that some travel agents may be unaware of them, or unable to book them.

THE ARTS GUIDE

BRITAIN

London
National Gallery, tel: (171) 747-2840, open daily. To May 27: "Pesellino's *Trinity Altarpiece.*" For the first time in nearly 200 years this work will be exhibited in its entirety. Because Pesellino died before completing the work, other artists have contributed to it. In the 18th century the piece was divided into five separate sections, four of which have made their way to the National Gallery. Now with the identification and loan of the fifth piece by the Hermitage Museum in St. Petersburg the painting will be shown complete.

DENMARK

Copenhagen
Arken — Museum of Modern Art, tel: (43) 542-727; closed Mondays. To May 12: "Emil Nolde." The paintings, watercolors and graphic works of this artist are considered some of the most central in the world of 20th-century international art. Landscapes and religious paintings play a big role in the exhibition, which explores the main themes in Nolde's universe.

FRANCE

Dijon
Musée des Beaux-Arts de Dijon, Palais des Etats de Bourgogne, tel: 80-74-52-70, closed Tuesdays. To May 13: "Claudio Parmiggiani, deesins." Parmiggiani began his carreer in the 1960s and since then has developed his art in different forms including three-dimensional works, drawings and poetry. This exposition displays nearly 50 of his drawings.

Paris
Centre Georges Pompidou, tel: (1) 44-78-12-33, closed Tuesdays. To May 31: American Photography 1890-1985 from the Museum of Modern Art in New York.
Hôtel de Ville, tel: (1) 42-76-49-61, closed Sundays. To April 27: "Pauvres de Nous." Photographs from the "petits frères des Pauvres," a humanitarian organization working with the poor throughout France and Europe. Their experiences are shown through touching yet haunting photographs taken over the past 50 years.
Pavillon des Arts, tel: 42-33-82-50, closed Mondays. To June 2: "Fortunato Depero, *futuriste*, de Rome à Paris, 1915-1925." Posters, drawings, sculptures and marionettes among others are present in this exposition which reflects the early years of the artist.

GERMANY

Bonn
Oper der Stadt Bonn, tel: (228) 77-36-66. "Don Giovanni." Directed by Roberto Ciulli. March 20 and 27.

THE NETHERLANDS

Amsterdam
Het Muziektheater, tel: (20) 6-255-455. Claudio Monteverdi's "L'Incoronazione di Poppea." Directed by Pierre Audi, conducted by Christophe Rousset, with Cynthia Haymon, Brigitte Balleys and Ning Liang. March 20, 23 and 26.

Martine Franck/Magnum

Dublin scene: "In a Cemetery of Stolen Cars," part of the "Pauvres de Nous" exhibition in Paris.

JAPAN

Tokyo
Edo-Tokyo Museum, tel: (3) 3401-2285. Performances of "Kiyotsune," a Noh play, with Shiro Nomura and Akio Kanze. March 26 to 30.

SWITZERLAND

Lausanne
Musée de l'Elysée, tel: (21) 617-48-21, closed Mondays. To May 12: "Donigan Cumming: La Répétition." Works by this Canadian photographer whose search for an artistic order lends an intimate side to his pictures. The exhibition focuses on three of his most recent cycles.

UNITED STATES

Chicago
The Art Institute of Chicago, tel: (312) 443-3600; open daily. To July 21: "America the Beautiful — Textiles from the Permanent Collection." More than 70 textiles from the 18th and 19th centuries are on view, including a hooked rug commemorating Lincoln's campaign. Also bedcovers, quilts and an extraordinary set of bed curtains and valences dating back to 1760.
Lyric Opera of Chicago, tel: (312) 332-2244. The complete Ring cycle, directed by August Everding, conducted by Zubin Mehta, designed by John Conklin. With the participation of James Morris, Siegfried Jerusalem, Matti Salminen and Marjana Lipovsek. March 11-30.

Houston
Museum of Fine Arts, tel: (713) 639-7300, closed Mondays. To June 30: "Jackson Pollock: Defining the Heroic." More than 30 paintings, drawings and sculptures document how this American Abstract Expressionist's drip paintings evolved over 20 years of work and study.

New York
Metropolitan Museum of Art, tel: (212) 570-3951, closed Mondays. To June 16: "Enamels of Limoges." Examples from the premier collections of the Metropolitan, the Louvre and the great church treasuries of France are assembled here to trace the innovations of Limoges goldsmiths over the course of more than 250 years.

Washington
National Gallery of Art, tel: (202) 737-4215, open daily. To May 19: "Harry Callahan." In a continuing tradition of celebrating the masters of American photography, the National Gallery brings Harry Callahan's work together for the first major traveling exhibition in the U.S. in 20 years. The artist's work is seen chronologically from his early days in 1940s Chicago through 1992, including his travels to foreign lands.

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INTERNATIONAL

Israel Blows Up House of Bombmaker Whose Killing Set Off Attacks

By David Hoffman
Washington Post Service

JERUSALEM — Israel on Thursday blew up the home of Yahya Ayyash, the assassinated Hamas bombmaker known as the "Engineer," who was killed by a remote-controlled booby-trapped telephone in January.

It was the second time in recent weeks that Israeli troops have demolished a house belonging to the family of a Hamas militant.

The latest wave of suicide car bombs in Israel were said by Hamas to be revenge for the assassination of Mr. Ayyash. The exploding telephone that killed him was reportedly prepared by Israel's secret service agents. Israel said Mr. Ayyash had been the mastermind behind a series of earlier bombs inside Israel.

The Israeli Army invited journalists to witness the demolition of the Ayyash family home in the West Bank, near Tulkarm. Israeli officials have said the demolitions, using explosives, instead of bulldozers, as in the past, are an attempt to deter prospective suicide bombers.

The demolitions come as Israel is also blockading Arab villages across the West Bank, sealing off both the Gaza Strip and West Bank from Israel, and planning to resume the practice of deportation against those suspected of activity in Islamic militant groups like Hamas.

Protests about the closure and the blockade have grown louder in recent days, with Palestinians saying the restrictive measures are deepening economic despair at a time when the peace process is already under strain. They say the measures are a return to collective punishment of all Palestinians.

The protests intensified after a Palestinian baby died when soldiers refused to allow the parents to pass a checkpoint to get to a hospital.

"Patients and medical staff alike are unable to travel from one area of the West Bank to another to reach hospitals and clinics, even in emergency situations," said the umbrella group of international organizations here aiding the Palestinians.

Terje Larson, the United Nations special coordinator in the territories, met with Palestinian political parties Thursday. He issued a statement afterward saying that the closure "could lead to a rapid deterioration in Palestinian living conditions in the coming few weeks" if not it were alleviated.

The blockade of 465 Arab villages restricts Palestinians from moving from one place to another, stifling both labor and commerce. The blockade does not apply to Jews living in settlements in the West Bank. The closure also prevents the 30,000 Palestinians with work permits for Israel from getting to their jobs.

Questioned about the closure Thursday at a news conference here, Prime Minister Shimon Peres said it was needed "to answer some security needs." He said, "We are trying very hard not to create any starvation or any suffering in the territories."

Israel has let in two convoys of trucks carrying medicines and flour.

President Bill Clinton, standing at Mr. Peres's side, said the blame for the closure lies with the Islamic militants. He said they "know that if they can put Israel in a position of closing the territories as a security measure, they then have a chance to change the attitude of the Palestinians; so it's a deliberate attempt by them to make the Palestinians as miserable as possible."

Bosnia to Get Cash If It Cuts Tie to Iran

By Michael Dobbs
Washington Post Service

WASHINGTON — The Republican-controlled Senate has approved an administration request for a $200 million contribution to an international aid fund for Bosnia-Herzegovina, but has stipulated that the money must not be disbursed until the Muslim-led government in Sarajevo cuts military and intelligence ties with Iran.

The Senate vote followed weeks of uncertainty about American support for the international aid effort for Bosnia, and cleared the way for an international donors' conference to be held in Brussels on April 12 to 13. It coincided with a decision by the World Bank to accept Bosnia as a member and approve an assistance package of around $450 million over the next four years.

Delays in mobilizing financial resources for Bosnia have raised concern about the implementation of the civilian aspects of last November's Dayton peace agreement, including the financing of an international police force. U.S. and NATO officials complain that the economic-reconstruction efforts are lagging far behind the relatively successful military operation to enforce a zone of separation between the warring Muslim-Croat and Serbian factions.

World Bank officials and others had warned that the international donors' conference would probably not go ahead unless the United States made a commitment to the civilian effort. But the administration was unhappy about the Senate provision blocking the aid until the Bosnian Muslims cut links to Iran.

"We don't believe this is the best approach," said a State Department spokesman, Glyn Davies. He said the administration would "work with Congress" in an attempt to eliminate the linkage.

Fehim Demir/Agence France-Presse

The formerly Serbian-held Sarajevo suburb of Ilidza was devastated before it was turned over to the Muslim-Croat federation.

EUROPE: *No Anti-Iran Drive*

Continued from Page 1

French petroleum company Total scooped up the contract, provoking an angry reaction from Washington.

Germany and Italy have also cultivated important trade and investment ties with Tehran. Like France, their governments have been reluctant to sever those connections, despite evidence gathered by their own intelligence agencies showing that Iran has conducted an assassination campaign against dissidents in Europe and orchestrated bombings against Jewish targets from Bangkok to Buenos Aires.

Senior European officials insist that they have seen no convincing proof that Iran played a key role in training, funding or encouraging the activities of the military wing of Hamas, the Palestinian fundamentalist movement that Israel has accused of carrying out the suicide bombings that killed 58 people over the last several weeks.

Instead, French officials claim that much of the money channeled to Hamas has come from sympathetic Muslim donors in Saudi Arabia and the United States. They also point out that Abdallah Shallah, the new Palestinian leader of Islamic Jihad, another militant Muslim organization suspected of terror activities, lived in the United States and taught at the University of Tampa, Florida.

"If you are looking at what has really helped Hamas emerge as a force in the occupied territories, then you have to look to Saudi Arabia, the United States and even Israel itself," said Jean de Lipkowski, a French parliamentarian who serves on the foreign affairs committee.

He and other Middle East specialists underscored the irony that Israel is now suffering the consequences of having encouraged the creation of Hamas nine years ago, largely as a political counterweight in the territories to the Palestine Liberation Organization.

Since the policies of the United States and Israel have done little to stop the spread of militant Islam in the past, European officials say, there is a justifiable basis for their doubts about following the lead of Washington and Jerusalem and imposing pariah status on Iran.

Indicted Bosnian Serb General Resurfaces in a Defiant Mode

By Jane Perlez
New York Times Service

BELGRADE — As if to dare NATO forces to come and get him, General Ratko Mladic, the International War Crimes tribunal's most wanted man, has suggested that American troops would be wounded or killed in any attempt to capture him.

"They must realize one factor: I'm expensive," General Mladic declared in reference to any effort to arrest him. "And my people are protecting me."

Breaking months of sulking silence in his bunker in Bosnia, General Mladic has embarked on a public relations offensive in the last week, giving interviews to friendly journalists, including one with his spokesman that was published in the opposition magazine NIN here Thursday.

The media blitz appears designed to show that he is alive, invincible and too tough for NATO troops.

Serbs say that after the Dayton peace agreement, General Mladic drank heavily, fell into bouts of depression and seemed unsure of his position within the Bosnian Serb forces. But recently, they say, he appears to have pulled himself together.

"He is not like Hitler waiting for the allied armies so squeeze him," said Bratislav Grudacic, the editor of a Belgrade newsletter who just returned from the area in eastern Bosnia that General Mladic controls.

The general and the Bosnian Serb civilian leader, Radovan Karadzic, have been accused by the tribunal of organizing and ordering the massacre of thousands of Muslims at Srebrenica last July.

In the interview, General Mladic hurled insults at the West and implied the United States was not prepared to risk lives in pursuing his capture. The public confession of a Bosnian Serb soldier who participated in the Srebrenica killings and his likely transfer to the tribunal in The Hague as a witness against General Mladic has unsettled some of the officers in the general's inner circle, several Serbs said. The soldier, Drazen Erdemovic, could be the first of many soldiers who were forced to shoot civilians and who would testify.

Russians Clash With Chechens As General Visits

Reuters

MOSCOW — Russian troops and Chechen rebels exchanged mortar and automatic-rifle fire Thursday in the center of the regional capital, Grozny, and Russia launched air raids against a major separatist stronghold.

The clashes in Grozny took place as the Russian defense minister, General Pavel S. Grachev, visited the city to study the situation ahead of a meeting in the Kremlin on Friday of the policy-making Security Council.

The council is scheduled to consider a peace initiative that could be crucial for President Boris N. Yeltsin's chances of winning a June 16 Russian presidential election.

Mr. Yeltsin is trailing the Communist Party leader, Gennadi A. Zyuganov, in opinion polls.

The 15-month-old war in Chechnya, in which more than 25,000 people have been killed, is widely regarded as Mr. Yeltsin's greatest handicap in the campaign.

Interfax news agency, reporting from Grozny, said that rebels were continuing to resist Russian Interior Ministry troops as well as the pro-Moscow Chechen militia.

"There has been some stabilization, but the situation in the Chechen capital remains difficult," said Yuri Plugin, deputy interior minister of the Moscow-backed Chechen administration.

He told Interfax that snipers loyal to the separatist leader, Dzhokar Dudayev, remained active in Grozny more than a week after infiltrating the city and holding parts of it for up to four days.

The Itar-Tass news agency said the rebels had opened fire on a Russian military checkpoint in Minutka Square from a nearby apartment block.

There were no immediate reports of casualties.

Two construction workers had been killed by rebel fire in Minutka Square in the last 24 hours, Interfax said.

Two Russian soldiers were killed in other incidents.

Minutka Square was the scene of fierce clashes between Russian troops and separatists in early 1995, when Moscow's troops captured Grozny, and again last week when the rebels launched their biggest counteroffensive since the war started.

The rebels mostly withdrew from Grozny over the weekend.

Russia then turned its attention and its firepower on the western settlement of Bamut, a former Soviet nuclear missile base 45 kilometers (30 miles) southwest of Grozny.

Turkey Ready for Talks on Aegean Pullback

Agence France-Presse

ANKARA — Prime Minister Mesut Yilmaz said Thursday that he was willing to hold talks with Greece over the demilitarization of disputed territory in the Aegean Sea.

Mr. Yilmaz was quoted by the Anatolia news agency as saying that "all the Turko-Greek questions, including the demilitarization of isles in the Aegean Sea" could be discussed as part of the "dialogue between Ankara and Athens."

Demilitarization could also concern the 4th Turkish Army, which is stationed in the west of the country, near the Aegean coast, the prime minister said.

Speaking at a press conference here, Mr. Yilmaz had been questioned about a proposal earlier Thursday by the Greek foreign minister, Theodoros Pangalos, that Greece would consider withdrawing troops from "areas around Turkey" if Ankara agreed to withdraw its own troops from the Aegean Sea.

Mr. Pangalos made the statement in an interview with a Turkish reporter; an extract of it was obtained by AFP. "Disarmament is easy, but we must start with the most powerful," Mr. Pangalos said in the interview, taped in French earlier this month for a TV program. The interview has yet to be broadcast.

"On the coast, you are much stronger, everyone knows that," he told the Turkish reporter. "So start by transferring your military capacity elsewhere, where the true or potential enemy is." He said that Greece would then remove its troops from the region.

Greece and Turkey came close to armed conflict in January after both countries sent forces to the disputed island. Conflict was averted only after intervention by the United States, which then accused European countries of failing to become fully involved in reconciling the two NATO allies.

GUNS: *'Kalashnikov Culture' Takes Over With Flood of Weapons*

Continued from Page 1

city of 10 million almost doubled last year, to 2,095. Last June, ethnic and sectarian violence killed 320 people — more than 10 a day.

In the city's Orangi neighborhood, concentrated violence has forced shutdowns of small factories that made towels, sheets and embroidered fabrics. For two years, authorities banned motor scooters from carrying passengers in the city because the vehicles had been used in drive-by shootings.

In Peshawar, the switch from traditional single-shot rifles to automatic weapons has cost lives even when ethnic Pathan tribesmen did not mean to kill.

Gulalai Wali Khan, a Peshawar surgeon, said the new, serious problem is that firing so many bullets rapidly into the air makes them more likely to ricochet off each other

"Before the rapid-fire guns, we were fine," she said. "This only came in after the Kalashnikov. It's part of the Kalashnikov culture."

Western Nations Weigh a Review Of Bosnia Setbacks

Reuters

WASHINGTON — Western governments are discussing holding a meeting in Geneva early next week with the leaders of Bosnia, Serbia and Croatia to tackle problems in the Bosnia peace agreement, Western diplomats said Thursday.

They said that the Balkan leaders were expected to meet Secretary of State Warren M. Christopher and also with several senior officials from Russia, Britain, France and Germany.

Although details of the proposed meeting had not been decided, it was likely to take place Monday or Tuesday, when Mr. Christopher had planned to be in Geneva as part of a Middle East and European tour, the diplomats said.

They said the talks would attempt to clear the way for a meeting between Balkan leaders and the U.S., Russian, British, French and German foreign ministers in Moscow on March 23.

RAGS: *Castoffs Into Cash*

Continued from Page 1

good clothes, and they get graded, fumigated, baled and exported," said Sally Miller, who heads the Africa desk at the Commerce Department. "For Africans, these are garments being sent over, not rags."

Every morning, tons of second-hand clothes, packed tightly in 100-pound bales, are trucked to Nairobi from the port of Mombasa. Known in East Africa as "mutumba," the bales of used garments fuel a booming industry that provides thousands of jobs, from truck drivers to hawkers to tailors working out of doors in the marketplace.

Markets like Gikomba can be found in almost every major city and in many small towns in Africa.

Zaire alone imports $11 million worth of mutumba from the United States each year; Niger is second with $9 million. By some estimates, one-third of the 550 million people living in sub-Saharan Africa are walking around in cast-off clothing.

"There isn't a single market in Africa you can go to and not find second-hand clothing," said Joseph Wanjohi, spokesman for the Kenyan Ministry of Commerce and Industry.

"The original donor to a charity probably doesn't know that somewhere down the line, someone is making money."

The Kenyan government attempted for years to ban or restrict the sale of imported cast-offs in order to protect its textile industry.

A few years ago, President Daniel arap Moi even suggested in speeches that people could contract diseases by buying used clothes. But importers continued to smuggle the clothes into the country anyway, attracted by the seemingly inexhaustible demand.

"We have banned it and unbanned it," a Kenyan official said. "We have done everything we can, but we can't get rid of it. They are giving job opportunities to a lot of people in the low income group."

SLAUGHTER: *Scottish Town Becomes 'the Place Where the Children Were Murdered'*

Continued from Page 1

Dunblane's commercial life since the days it was a bustling market town, were closed Thursday. Some carried signs expressing sympathy for the families of the dead and injured children. Around the corner at the post office, which did remain open, an employee had posted a fax from a well-wisher in Reykjavik, Iceland.

"I heard the news yesterday, but the true shock hasn't registered fully until this morning, perhaps because of daily news of atrocities all over the world," said the fax, signed by Gretar Oddson. "My heart really goes out for your town and all its inhabitants."

Across the river on the other side of town, a growing pile of bouquets, stuffed animals and poignant notes dotted the drive in front of the Dunblane Primary School, and some residents began calling for the gymnasium where the shooting took place to be torn down, as a way, perhaps, to help blot out what happened there.

There was growing anger, too, at the fact that the gunman, a loner who had generated scores of informal complaints from parents about his behavior as a leader of local boys' clubs, had apparently been granted gun certificates allowing him to legally own firearms.

Under British law, people who apply for gun certificates now have to prove their fitness for gun ownership, declare that they are not mentally ill, inform the police of any criminal record and furnish reasons why they want to use the guns, for pest control or hunting, for example.

"What seems rather extraordinary is the way in which the rules were applied in this particular case," Michael Stephen, a member of Parliament and deputy chairman of the Tory backbench Home Affairs Committee, told the Press Association. "I would have thought he was an unacceptable person."

Ann Dickson, a local politician, said she had been fielding parents' complaints about Mr. Hamilton's odd behavior toward children — rumor had it that he liked to photograph and to touch them — for years, but never succeeded in getting him removed from the boys' clubs he ran.

"We tried everything, every channel available to us," she said. "But the police can do nothing unless there's a specific charge and you have proof."

In the days leading up to the shootings, Mr. Hamilton had sent letters to journalists, townspeople and to Queen Elizabeth II complaining that people were calling him a "pervert."

Ms. Dickson said it was impossible to feel any distance from the horror. "Yesterday it was unreal, but this morning you saw all the names and realized who it had affected."

Spy Service Wiretapped Mitterrand's Mistress

Reuters

PARIS — An anti-terrorist agency in the office of then-President François Mitterrand bugged his mistress's telephone, the daily newspaper Le Monde reported Thursday.

The newspaper said the anti-terrorist service had a wiretap on the telephone of Anne Pingeot, the mother of Mr. Mitterrand's daughter, Mazarine, for about three weeks in 1985.

Judge Jean-Paul Valat is formally investigating the former head of the now-dissolved service, Christian Prouteau, and several other senior officials on suspicion that they illegally bugged the telephones of dozens of people, including journalists and lawyers, in the 1980s.

According to Le Monde, Judge Valat asked Mr. Prouteau in November if his service had listened in on Mrs. Pingeot.

"Who is Anne Pingeot?" Mr. Prouteau was quoted as replying.

Le Monde said Mrs. Pingeot and Mazarine, now 21, were under the protection of presidential bodyguards until Mr. Mitterrand retired last year after ruling for 14 years.

2050: *Hispanics Leading Shift in U.S. Population*

Continued from Page 1

Although the United States is the fastest-growing country in the industrialized world, the report indicates that the nation is about to embark on a sharp slowdown in the rate of its population increases. After 2025, the United States will grow at a slower rate than at any time in its history, the report says.

But with that slowdown will come more diversity, a phenomenon that will give rise to a host of economic and social issues.

For example, the report notes that by 2030, the non-Hispanic white population would make up less than half of the people under the age of 18, but three-fourths of those over 65.

Given this, questions of the mix of tax revenues distributed to public education or Social Security or Medicare could easily take on a racial and ethnic tinge.

"You might have somewhat poorer Hispanics being asked to pay for the benefits of relatively well-off white Baby Boomers," said William H. Frey, a research scientist with the Population Studies Center at the University of Michigan.

Herald INTERNATIONAL Tribune

BUSINESS / FINANCE

THE TRIB INDEX: 133.07

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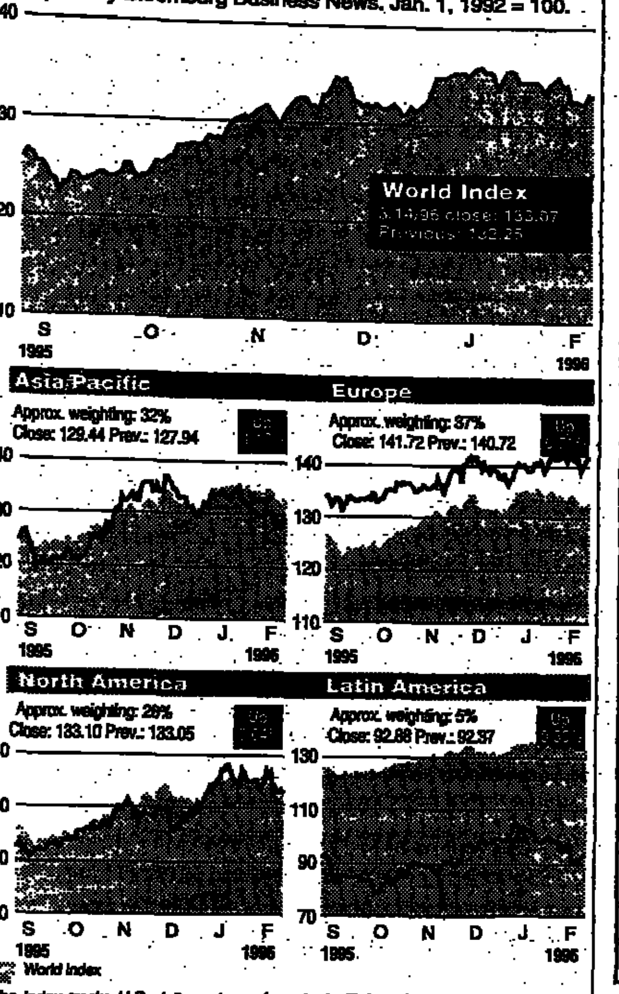

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Industrial Sectors

	Thu. close	Prev. close	% change		Thu. close	Prev. close	% change
Energy	136.92	135.50	+1.05	Capital Goods	140.63	140.09	+0.39
Utilities	125.62	125.58	+0.03	Raw Materials	155.31	154.96	+0.23
Finance	122.11	120.71	+1.16	Consumer Goods	140.77	140.38	+0.28
Services	121.19	120.65	+0.45	Miscellaneous	137.17	135.64	+1.13

For more information about the Index, a booklet is available free of charge. Write to Trib Index, 181 Avenue Charles de Gaulle, 92521 Neuilly Cedex, France.

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Milken Facing a New Inquiry

SEC Is Curious About Investment in Hasbro

By Peter Truell
New York Times Service

NEW YORK — The Securities and Exchange Commission is investigating a substantial investment that Michael Milken, the former junk-bond king, and Lawrence Ellison, chairman and chief executive officer of Oracle Corp., made in Hasbro Inc., the toy company, according to a government official and associates of Mr. Milken.

The inquiries are part of a widening SEC investigation of Mr. Milken's business activities in an effort to determine whether he has breached a 1990 consent agreement banning him from the securities industry for life. The SEC would not comment on the investigation.

The agency started by focusing on Mr. Milken's work for Ted Turner last year in connection with Time Warner Inc.'s pending $7.5 billion takeover of Turner Broadcasting System Inc. and his work for other high-profile media and entertainment executives.

Mr. Milken is expected to earn $50 million in fees — a huge amount even by Wall Street's standards — for his advice to Mr. Turner at the deal's completion.

The ban on Mr. Milken is subject to interpretation, so it is not clear exactly what actions might violate it. Moreover, it was not clear exactly what the SEC was focusing on in its inquiry into the Hasbro investments.

But the SEC has said that the formal investigation of Mr. Milken's recent business dealings will take six months. Because of the investigation, the government asked a New York federal judge Feb. 28 to extend Mr. Milken's three-year probation, which followed his prison sentence for securities fraud, by 90 days and indicated it might seek further extensions while the SEC completed its inquiry.

The multimillion-dollar investment in Hasbro by Mr. Milken and Mr. Ellison was made in late January, according to Mr. Milken, after Mattel Inc., America's largest toy-making company, announced a $5.2 billion offer for Hasbro, the country's second-largest toymaker.

That news caused Hasbro's share price to jump to an intraday high on Jan. 24 of $46.75. The next day, the stock closed at $40.50, up $9.875, then hit a 1996 closing high of $43.75 on Jan. 29.

In an interview Wednesday, Mr. Milken confirmed that he had paid $40 or more a share. But after the two of them had bought millions of dollars of Hasbro stock, the bet went sour. On Feb. 2, Mattel withdrew its offer, and the stock dropped back to about $35 a share. Hasbro shares closed Thursday at $35.25, up 12.5 cents.

At Hasbro's current share price, Mr. Milken and Mr. Ellison would face losses of millions of dollars if they sold their stake now, according to a source knowledgeable about the investment. Mr. Milken would not divulge his potential loss.

Late Wednesday, Mr. Milken's office issued a statement saying that Mr. Milken and Mr. Ellison had "joined together to purchase shares in Hasbro."

But until the SEC completes its investigation, the government is keeping an open mind about Mr. Milken's business dealings.

"The government is not alleging that Michael Milken has violated the SEC order," Reid Figel, the assistant U.S. attorney handling the case, said in court on Feb. 28. He called the Hasbro purchases a "joint personal investment."

Education Venture For Two Investors

The Associated Press

LOS ANGELES — Michael Milken and the chairman of Oracle Systems Corp., Larry Ellison, said Wednesday they were forming a company that would use advances in technology and entertainment to try to help education.

Possible projects for the company, Educational Technologies LLC, could include the development of networked computer stations and education software to run on them, they said.

Though they share a stake in Hasbro Inc., the two said they were not forming the company "as part of any other ongoing concerns."

U.S. Stocks Regain Nerve as New Data Calm Inflation Fears

By Lawrence Malkin
International Herald Tribune

NEW YORK — A decline in wholesale prices Thursday, the first reported in eight months, calmed the inflation fears that have upset financial markets since last week.

The Labor Department reported that the producer price index fell 0.2 percent in February, that energy prices were unchanged and that aside from volatile but declining food prices pulling down the overall index, the core rate for wholesale inflation rose a modest 0.1 percent.

The index was up only 2 percent from a year earlier, and there was no hint of inflation to come in February's drop of 0.4 percent in the prices of intermediate materials and 0.7 percent in unfinished materials. These indexes have been declining for half a year.

"Disinflation is alive and well, and there are no inflation pressures in the pipeline," said Edward Yardeni of C.J. Lawrence.

Wall Street breathed a sigh of relief as fund managers bet on a sluggish economy with low inflation, lifting the Dow Jones industrial average as much as 61.05 points at one point, close to its record set March 5 of 5,642.42. But the Dow slid in the last 45 minutes of trading and retained a gain of only 17.34 points at the close, at 5,586.06.

The bond market, which suffered a 3 percent plunge Friday — its largest one-day decline since 1987 — and touched off a stock-market rout then, was up during most of the session but slipped in late trading.

The benchmark 30-year Treasury bond closed with a loss of 5/32, at a price of 91 3/32, as its yield rose to 6.69 percent from 6.68 percent.

Market specialists said time was still needed to heal the psychological wounds left by last week's unexpected report from Labor Department statisticians that 705,000 jobs had been added in February, a number that, according to a Washington Post article, was dismissed in an internal report by U.S. Treasury economists as "statistically implausible."

In addition, the market may be jostled Friday when data are scheduled to appear that might prove unsettling. Announcements are expected of Federal Reserve Board data on industrial production, an indicator that is likely to reflect the dubious employment statistics, as well as a figure on consumer sentiment from the University of Michigan, which is often unpredictable.

Consumer inflation is likely to be reassuring, while the simultaneous expiration of a set of futures contracts known as the "triple-witching hour" toward the end of the day

See ECONOMY, Page 12

Siemens Extends Its Computer Grid With 10% of Vobis

By John Schmid
International Herald Tribune

HANNOVER — Amid falling prices and pressure on profit, Siemens Nixdorf Informationssysteme AG, the biggest German computer maker, said Thursday it was taking a 10 percent stake in its biggest domestic rival.

Siemens Nixdorf, a unit of Siemens AG, said taking a stake in Vobis Microcomputer AG would allow the companies to save money by teaming up on purchases. A few days ago, Siemens Nixdorf raised its stake in Escom AG, the third-biggest German computer maker, to 12.5 percent from 10 percent.

The three companies represent a combined annual production of between 2 million and 2.5 million computers, more than double what Siemens produces alone. That would give the three-way alliance more clout in negotiations with suppliers, Gerhard Schulmeyer, the chairman of Siemens, said at the CeBIT computer-trade fair.

Joint purchasing should help Siemens Nixdorf stay in the black. It showed a profit last year for the first time since it was created in 1990. Despite a weak market in Germany, where it has most of its sales, the company should be profitable again in the current financial year, which began Oct. 1, Mr. Schulmeyer said.

Siemens Nixdorf's German orders fell 3 percent in the first five months of the financial year, reflecting the country's economic slowdown.

The company's joint purchasing strategy comes at a time of realignment among German computer makers that has led to a rapidly shrinking base of manufacturing operations. The German unit of International Business Machines Corp. has shifted 800 jobs to Hungary from a plant in Mainz, sold plant that makes circuit boards and unloaded more than half of its stake in a Stuttgart semiconductor plant.

WALL STREET WATCH

A Smoke-and-Mirrors Deal

By Glenn Collins
New York Times Service

NEW YORK — For Bennett LeBow, Wednesday's agreement to settle a giant class-action lawsuit against his Liggett Group tobacco company is being viewed as his masterpiece. Mr. LeBow "got a great deal and gave up nothing," said Roy D. Burry, an analyst for Oppenheimer & Co. "He has almost no downside."

By reaching the first settlement between plaintiffs and a tobacco company, industry executives and analysts said, Mr. LeBow had substantially limited Liggett's liability in history's largest class action, known as the Castano suit. The case has loomed as the principal legal threat confronting the tobacco industry.

Mr. LeBow also enhanced the value of his struggling Liggett business, which Mr. LeBow's Brooke Group owns, to potential acquirers. Perhaps most significantly, he won leverage in the proxy battle he and Carl Icahn are waging as dissident shareholders against RJR Nabisco Holdings Co.

They hope to force the company to immediately spin off its food unit from its tobacco business. RJR shareholders are to vote April 17 in the contest for company directors.

In pressing for a spin-off now, Mr. LeBow and Mr. Icahn hope to lift the combined stock price of the resulting food and tobacco companies and win a handsome dividend for shareholders.

RJR Nabisco argues that a spin-off before 1997 would expose the company to dire legal liabilities, including injunctions. In the settlement with the Castano plaintiffs, though, RJR Nabisco shareholders have the right to vote to buy Liggett first, and if they do, they would be indemnified from injunctions after a spin-off. Mr. LeBow said he might sell Liggett to another tobacco company if RJR Nabisco shareholders passed up the offer.

But having won an advantageous position, Mr. LeBow now must capitalize on two wild cards: the impact of the settlement on his proxy battle against RJR management and whether the settlement will ultimately remove the cloud over the value of his Liggett shares.

RJR Nabisco shares closed Thursday at $32.625, down $1.25. Brooke Group closed at $9.75, down 12.5 cents.

As Mr. LeBow strengthened his hand against RJR, the company called the settlement "an irresponsible and reckless ploy to influence RJR Nabisco shareholders in the proxy contest." A lawyer for RJR said the company would not negotiate with the class-action plaintiffs because "we think we can win." Mr. LeBow responded: "What's irresponsible and reckless about reducing RJR shareholders' theoretical injunction risk? The message to RJR Nabisco shareholders is simple. They can have an immediate spin-off of Nabisco with no injunction risk."

As part of the Liggett Group's proposed settlement, which must be approved by the court, the plaintiffs' lawyers agreed not to seek an injunction against RJR Nabisco after a spin-off, should Mr. LeBow and Mr. Icahn's slate of 14 directors win election at the RJR meeting.

Fokker Talks On Rescue Prolonged

Compiled by Our Staff From Dispatches

AMSTERDAM — Fokker NV's deadline to find a buyer expired Thursday with no news of any bids, but the planemaker said it was still in talks on a possible rescue.

Fokker said it would hold a news conference Friday to announce what decisions had been made.

Samsung Aerospace Industries Corp. of South Korea and Aviation Industries of China, who had expressed interest in Fokker, made no announcement of a bid.

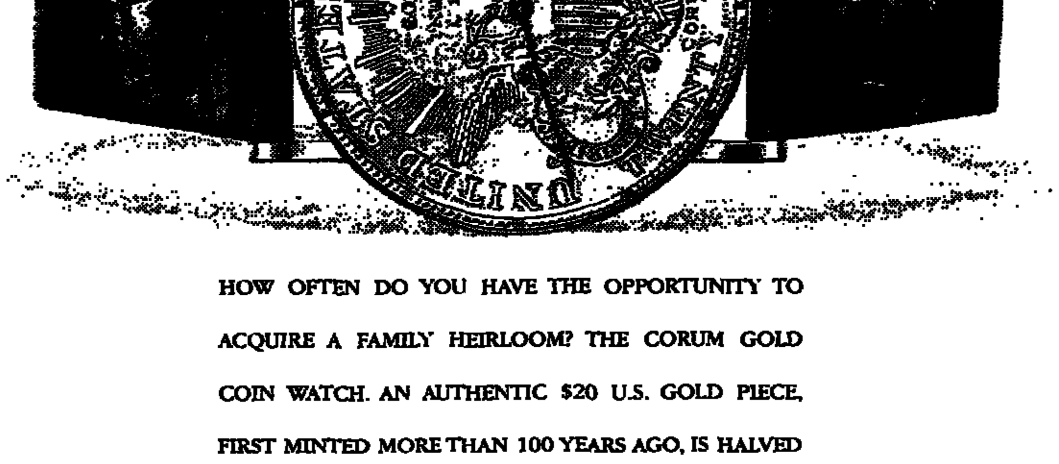
In Beijing, Li Junduo, a spokesman for Aviation Industries of China, said the company had postponed a news conference on Fokker.

The jetmaker has been operating under court protection from creditors since Jan. 22, when Daimler-Benz AG of Germany, its parent company, cut a cash lifeline.

It has been kept alive with the help of Dutch state aid while searching for a buyer.

Next week, creditors will be entitled to seize assets from Fokker plants, and if Fokker gets no bids, its administrators will have to file for bankruptcy. *(AFX, Bloomberg, Reuters)*

A LITTLE SOMETHING FOR YOUR GREAT GREAT GRANDSON



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CURRENCY & INTEREST RATES

Cross Rates March 14

	$	£	D.M.	F.F.	Lira	D.Fl.	B.F.	S.F.	Yen	C$	Peseta
Amsterdam	1.6585	2.511	1.1195	0.3265	0.1051*	—	5.4465*	1.3879	1.5635*	1.211	1.322*
Brussels	30.215	46.34	20.555	6.0025	1.9314*	18.36	—	25.48	0.2873	22.15	24.47*
Frankfurt	1.4722	2.2445	—	0.2919	0.0923*	0.8933	4.8452*	1.2286	1.3978*	1.0742	1.1887*
London (a)	1.5228	—	2.2442	7.6599	2,380.98	2.5123	46.1295	1.8111	160.64	2.0834	188.625
Madrid	123.589	188.436	84.057	24.519	7.875*	75.084	4.0803	104.275	117.458*	90.382	—
Milan	1,560.55	2,387.35	1,066.35	311.79	—	952.00	51.988	1,320.40	14.891	1,146.95	12.677
New York (b)	—	1.5275a	1.4715	5.0435	1,568.00	1.6472	30.23	1.1878	105.53	1.368	123.65
Paris	5.0445	7.6855	3.4202	—	0.3212*	3.0629	0.1668	4.2594	4.7905*	3.6882	4.0765*
Tokyo	105.38	160.49	71.49	20.89	0.672	63.86	3.4767	88.58	—	76.97	0.8504
Toronto	1.3679	2.0851	0.9290	0.2710	0.0873*	0.8303	0.4521*	1.1519	1.2982*	—	1.106*
Zurich	1.1826	1.8084	0.8068	0.2351	0.0756*	0.7206	3.924*	—	1.1275*	0.8677	0.9598*
1 ECU	1.2956	0.8432	1.8882	6.48	2,017.70	2.1161	38.8535	1.5346	135.209	1.2579	158.872
1 SDR	1.4647	0.9607	2.1562	7.3825	2,298.71	2.4108	44.2977	1.7393	154.196	2.0003	180.999

Closings in Amsterdam, London, Milan, New York, Paris and Zurich, fixings in other centers; and Toronto rates at 3 p.m.
*a: To buy one pound; b: To buy one dollar; *Units of 100; N.Q.: not quoted; N.A.: not available.*

Other Dollar Values

Currency	Per $	Currency	Per $	Currency	Per $	Currency	Per $
Argent. peso	1.00	Greek drac.	241.03	Mex. peso	7.56	S. Afr. rand	3.93
Australian $	1.2913	Hong Kong $	7.7315	N. Zealand $	1.4482	S. Kor. won	780.40
Austrian sch.	10.335	Hung. forint	145.98	Norw. krone	6.4075	Swed. krona	6.7855
Brazil real	0.9833	Indian rupee	34.105	Phil. peso	26.19	Taiwan $	27.50
Chinese yuan	8.3540	Indo. rupiah	2334.50	Polish zloty	2.57	Thai baht	25.22
Czech koruna	27.22	Irish £	0.636	Port. escudo	151.89	Turkish lira	67834.
Danish krone	5.6811	Israeli shek.	3.0885	Russ ruble	4831.00	UAE dirham	3.671
Egypt. pound	3.3939	Kuwaiti dinar	0.299	Saudi riyal	3.75	Venez. boliv.	511.00
Fin. markka	4.6017	Malay. ring.	2.54	Sing. $	1.4064		

Forward Rates

Currency	30-day	60-day	90-day	Currency	30-day	60-day	90-day
Pound Sterling	1.5236	1.5227	1.5220	Japanese yen	104.81	104.36	103.94
Canadian dollar	1.3675	1.3675	1.3675	Swiss franc	1.1824	1.1785	1.1752
Deutsche mark	1.4681	1.4655	1.4631				

Sources: ING Bank (Amsterdam); Indosuez Bank (Brussels); Banca Commerciale Italiana (Milan); Agence France-Presse (Paris); Bank of Tokyo (Tokyo); Royal Bank of Canada (Toronto); IMF (SDR). Other data from Reuters and AP.

Eurocurrency Deposits March 14

	Dollar	D-Mark	Swiss Franc	Sterling	French Franc	Yen	ECU
1-month	5 5/16 - 5 7/16	3 5/16 - 3 7/16	1 3/4 - 1 7/8	5 15/16 - 6 1/16	4 - 4 1/8	5/8 - 3/4	4 9/16 - 4 11/16
3-month	5 5/16 - 5 7/16	3 1/4 - 3 3/8	1 13/16 - 1 15/16	5 15/16 - 6 1/16	4 1/8 - 4 1/4	1/2 - 5/8	4 9/16 - 4 11/16
6-month	5 1/4 - 5 3/8	3 1/4 - 3 3/8	1 13/16 - 1 15/16	6 - 6 1/8	4 3/16 - 4 5/16	9/16 - 11/16	4 9/16 - 4 11/16
1-year	5 7/16 - 5 9/16	3 3/8 - 3 1/2	3 3/8 - 3 1/2	6 5/16 - 6 7/16	4 3/8 - 4 1/2	5/8 - 3/4	4 5/8 - 4 3/4

Sources: Reuters, Lloyds Bank.
Rates applicable to interbank deposits of $1 million minimum (or equivalent).

Key Money Rates

United States	Close	Prev
Discount rate	5.00	5.00
Prime rate	8 1/4	8 1/4
Federal funds	5 5/16	5 1/4
3-month CDs	4.94	4.93
Comm. paper 180 days	6.77	6.11
3 month Treasury bill	4.98	4.97
1-year Treasury bill	5.11	5.10
2-year Treasury bill	5.71	5.74
5-year Treasury note	6.03	6.04
7-year Treasury note	6.16	6.17
10-year Treasury note	6.35	6.36
30-year Treasury bond	6.69	6.68
Merrill Lynch 30-day RA	4.86	4.86
Japan		
Discount rate	0.50	0.50
Call money	0.37	0.40
1-month interbank	0.69	0.64
3-month interbank	0.59	0.59
6-month interbank	0.63	0.64
10-year Govt bond	2.82	2.87
Germany		
Lombard rate	5.00	5.00
Call money	3.40	3.40
1-month interbank	3.37	3.37
3-month interbank	3.35	3.35
6-month interbank	3.35	3.35
10-year Bund	6.52	6.56

Britain		
Bank base rate	6 1/4	6 1/4
Call money	5 15/16	5 15/16
1-month interbank	6.00	6 1/16
3-month interbank	6 1/16	6 1/8
6-month interbank	6.00	6 1/16
10-year Gilt	8.11	8.13
France		
Intervention rate	3.90	3.90
Call money	4 1/16	4.00
1-month interbank	4.00	4.00
3-month interbank	4 1/8	4 1/8
6-month interbank	4 3/16	4 3/16
10-year OAT	6.71	6.40

Sources: Reuters, Bloomberg, Merrill Lynch, Bank of Tokyo, Commerzbank, Credit Lyonnais.

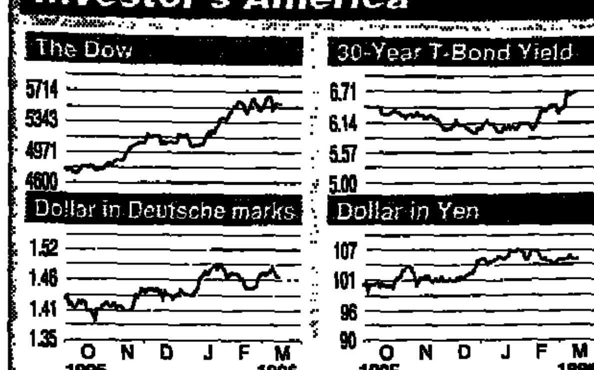
Gold

	A.M.	P.M.	Ch'ge
Zurich	396.25	396.00	—1.00
London	396.10	395.50	—1.00
New York	397.70	396.50	—1.20

U.S. dollars per ounce. London official fixings; Zurich and New York opening and closing prices; New York Comex (April.)
Source: Reuters.

THE AMERICAS

Investor's America



Exchange	Index	Thursday Close	Prev. Close	% Change
NYSE	The Dow	5586.06	5568.72	+0.31
NYSE	S&P 500	640.87	638.55	+0.36
NYSE	S&P 100	619.37	616.13	+0.53
NYSE	Composite	343.49	341.86	+0.46
U.S.	Nasdaq Composite	1091.07	1088.64	+0.22
AMEX	Market Value	561.78	560.77	+0.18
Toronto	TSE Index	4975.44	4948.86	+0.54
São Paulo	Bovespa	48412.8	48055.87	+0.74
Mexico City	Bolsa	2853.52	2864.93	-0.40
Buenos Aires	Merval	501.88	507.58	-1.11
Santiago	IPSA General	5492.18	5469.54	+0.05
Caracas	Capital General	2979.18	2923.84	+1.89

Source: Bloomberg, Reuters — International Herald Tribune

Seagram's 4th Quarter Fizzles

Compiled by Our Staff From Dispatches

NEW YORK — Seagram Co. Ltd. said Thursday its earnings tumbled 58 percent in the fourth quarter but rose nearly fivefold for the financial year, reflecting its move last spring into the entertainment business.

Seagram, a beverage company based in Montreal, sold most of its stake in DuPont Co. in April 1995, just before buying 80 percent of MCA Inc., the record and film company. For the three months ended Jan. 31, Seagram earned $81 million, down from $191 million a year earlier.

The results a year ago included $145 million in dividends and other earnings related to Seagram's stake in DuPont, but nothing this year since most of the stake was sold.

Revenue jumped 65 percent in the quarter, to $3.66 billion from $2.23 billion a year earlier, because of the addition of MCA and juice operations bought from Dole.

The company said earnings before interest, taxes, amortization and depreciation fell 16 percent for the quarter from its spirits and wine group because of tough competitive conditions in Europe.

But results from its nonalcoholic beverage group rose 40 percent because of growth in the Tropicana and Dole juice businesses.

"The Seagram beverage group's performance during the quarter was exceptional, and its near-term outlook is favorable," said Seagram's chief executive, Edgar Bronfman Jr. Still, "overall results for spirits and wine were disappointing," he said.

MCA contributed $133 million in earnings before interest, taxes, amortization and depreciation for the quarter, but that was down 18 percent from a year ago under previous owners when the music business was stronger.

For the year, Seagram earned $3.41 billion, up from $736 million a year earlier. The latest results included a $3.16 billion gain on the sale of the DuPont stock.

MCA, which Seagram bought from Matsushita Electric Industrial Co., operates Universal Pictures, theme parks, MCA records, Geffen records and a television production unit, and it owns more than 40 percent of the movie-theater company Cineplex Odeon Corp.

Although MCA's music group had weaker results, movies such as "Apollo 13" and "Babe" were good performers, Mr. Bronfman said. *(AP, Bloomberg)*

ECONOMY: *Data Assure Wall Street*

Continued from Page 11

could send the market into a sudden but short-lived spin.

After Mickey Levy, chief financial economist for NationsBank, was forced to defend his forecasts of a soft economy to his bank's worried traders, he stood by them and said: "I've gone over my numbers very carefully, and I find the outlook on inflation unambiguously positive and the economy growing modestly. What was understated by a lot of us who focus on the long-run fundamentals of the economy was the effect of the collapse of Washington's budget talks and the sudden run-up of interest rates on two-year notes."

This has been widely attributed to hedge funds dumping these notes as they unwound complex bets involving huge borrowings in Japan.

Federal Reserve Board officials say that this process has largely been completed, but they also are looking again at their economic forecasts after a string of confusing figures and the Fed's own report of slow growth and little inflation from regional banks in its so-called beige book report.

"The good news is that this book chipped away at the fear planted by the 705,000 jobs that growth is zooming again," said David Munro of High Frequency Economics.

"The bad news is that it does not illuminate moves to come by the Federal Open Market Committee."

With most of Wall Street expecting the Fed to stand pat and decline to cut rates again at its Open Market Committee meeting on March 26, there is therefore little pressure on the Fed to move before its next meeting at the end of May, by which time the outlook for the U.S. economy in the rest of 1996 is expected to have become somewhat more clear.

■ Cyclicals Ride the Rebound

Shares of chemical, retail and airline companies were among the leading gainers on Wall Street, Bloomberg Business News reported from New York.

"Cyclical stocks were pretty much undervalued, based on what's going on in the economy," said Benedict Capaldi, portfolio manager at Provident Capital Management.

U.S. STOCKS

Still, the industrial average was held back by Philip Morris, as the company's stock tumbled 5 to 93 amid concern that tobacco companies will have to start paying damages to people who have smoked their cigarettes.

The Nasdaq composite index gained 2.43 points to 1,091.07 as the technology sector continued its rally for a second day. But Oracle slipped 1½ to 48⅛ after the company reported lower-than-expected earnings on weak software sales in Europe.

Chemical-company shares rose after PaineWebber Inc. said stockpiles of ethylene, which is used in making plastic, were below normal. That should allow companies to raise prices and profits, analysts said.

Shares of Monsanto rallied 4⅝ to 149⅝ as the chemical and biotechnology company said it planned to split its stock, step up its share-buyback plan and introduce new compensation programs for employees from senior management down.

Signs that the economy is picking up buoyed retailers. Dayton Hudson also said that earnings in the quarter ended Feb. 3 exceeded expectations, and its stock jumped 1⅞ to 82¾.

CompuServe Caters to the Family

By Peter H. Lewis
New York Times Service

NEW YORK — CompuServe Inc., going against the tide of the consumer on-line industry, disclosed plans for a proprietary service aimed at families and novice computer users.

The Internet-based service — called Wow! — is scheduled to be available March 25 at a flat rate of $17.95 a month for unlimited access. It will offer a range of materials oriented for families and children. A child signing on would see a cartoon-directed interface, while an adult would see a more serious approach.

The service will also offer access to the World Wide Web through its own browser, along with controls enabling parents to limit access to Internet sites for their children.

Officials at CompuServe, a unit of H&R Block Inc., made it clear that they regarded Wow! as a direct challenge to America Online Inc., the leader in the consumer on-line services market. In addition, they hinted that CompuServe was in talks with both AT&T Corp. and the Microsoft Network on-line division of Microsoft Corp. about securing distribution deals similar to the ones those companies announced with America Online this week.

The existing CompuServe Information Service has an estimated 4.3 million subscribers worldwide, mainly among businesses and technology enthusiasts. In contrast, CompuServe officials said, Wow! has been designed to appeal to users of home computers, especially those with children, and people who have found the Internet and on-line services too difficult to use.

"We believe the consumer market for on-line services is about to explode," said CompuServe president Robert J. Massey.

Analysts said it was unclear whether that was the case. In recent months, several on-line services have failed or abandoned the proprietary approach to become open services within the Internet.

Very briefly:

Credit-Card Delinquency Worsens

WASHINGTON (AP) — Delinquency by U.S. credit-card holders hit a 10-year high in the fourth quarter, according a survey released Thursday.

"The last time we saw credit-card delinquencies this high was the end of the last recession," said James Chessen, chief economist for the American Bankers Association, which conducted the quarterly review of loan trends.

Credit-card accounts that were 30 days or more overdue rose to 3.34 percent in the three months ended Dec. 31, 1995, up from 3.30 percent in the previous quarter and 2.93 percent a year earlier. The amount of dollars owed on the delinquent accounts rose 4.45 percent, compared with a 3.20 percent rise in the fourth quarter of 1994, the association said.

Economists blamed the rising delinquencies on a variety of factors, including stagnant paychecks, banks' mass marketing of credit cards and consumer spending habits that disregarded rising personal debt.

- **U.S. commercial banks** posted a record $48.8 billion in earnings in 1995, fueled by higher interest income, according to the Federal Deposit Insurance Corp.
- **AT&T Corp.** said it was setting up a nationwide employment bank for 40,000 workers expected to lose their jobs at the company.
- **General Motors Corp.** said it would challenge attempts by about 100,000 United Auto Workers to receive state unemployment benefits while they were away from their jobs because of a strike. *Reuters, Bloomberg*

Dollar Barely Moves as Bundesbank Stands Pat on Rates

Compiled by Our Staff From Dispatches

NEW YORK — The dollar was little changed against most other major currencies Thursday as stock and bond prices diverged. "The dollar's getting support from stocks, but just like the bond market, the dollar has stalled," said Brian Dolan, a currency strategist at Crédit Suisse.

U.S. stock and bond prices rose after the government reported that producer prices fell 0.2 percent last month. But the bond market gave up its gains, helping to limit any dollar advance. The dollar closed at 1.4715 Deutsche marks, up from 1.4704 DM at the close Wednesday, and at 105.53 yen, up from 105.15 yen. Against other currencies, the dollar closed at

FOREIGN EXCHANGE

5.0425 French francs, compared with 5.0355 francs, and at 1.1878 Swiss francs, down from 1.1880. The pound rose to $1.5275 from $1.5235.

Meanwhile, the Bundesbank left German interest rates unchanged, although fresh signs of slowing growth and continued bond-market volatility contributed to the belief that a reduction would come soon. The central bank left its discount rate at 3 percent and its Lombard rate at 5 percent. The Bundesbank also said it would keep its key money-market rate, the securities-repurchase rate, fixed at 3.30 percent until its next meeting in two weeks.

"The Bundesbank is probably going to cut rates fairly soon, at least to calm down the markets," said Ralph Sueppel, an economist at J.P. Morgan & Co. *(Bloomberg, Reuters, Knight-Ridder)*

WORLD STOCK MARKETS

Thursday, March 14
Prices in local currencies.
Telekurs

Amsterdam

	High	Low	Close	Prev.
ABN-AMRO	78.80	77.60	78.70	77.30
Aegon	71.50	70	71.50	70.70
Ahold	74.70	73.90	74.30	74.20
Akzo Nobel	180.60	178.10	179	180
Bols Wess cva	33.90	33.30	33.50	33.30
CSM cva	76.90	75.30	76.90	76.50
Dordtsche Pet	240	238.90	239.40	239.10
DSM	154	153	153.60	153.50
Elsevier	24.70	23.80	24.70	23.70
Fortis Amev	110.70	109	110.70	109
G-Broc cva	51.50	50.70	51	51.20
Hagemeyer	102.90	101.50	102.80	101.70
Heineken	327.50	325.20	326.90	325.50
Hoogovens	62.60	61.50	62.40	62.60
Hunt Douglas	102	100.60	102	101
ING cva	114.30	111.50	113.60	111.80
KLM	56.40	55.20	56.20	55.50
KNP BT	45.90	45.30	45.90	45.50
KPN	67.60	65.80	67.60	65.70
Nedlloyd Gp	40	35.60	39.60	35.70
Nutricia	153.50	150.30	153.50	150.90
Oce Grinten	134.30	133.30	134.30	134.30
Pakhoed	43	42.60	43	42.70
Philips Elec	66	64.60	65.40	65
Polygram	100.40	98	99.20	100
Randstad Hdg	83.50	81.90	83.50	81.70
Robeco	120.20	119.20	120.20	119.20
Rodamco	45.80	45.50	45.60	45.50
Rolinco	127.10	126.90	127	126.50
Rorento	94	93.70	93.90	93.90
Royal Dutch	227.50	225.70	227.50	227.40
Stork	45.90	44.90	45.60	45.20
Unilever cva	225.70	224.10	225.70	224
VNU	27.30	27	27.20	27.10
Wolters Kl cva	176.90	174.90	176.90	175

EOE index: 528.55
Previous: 514.34

Bangkok

	High	Low	Close	Prev.
Adv Info Svc	470	462	470	466
Bangkok Bk F	326	320	324	320
Krung Thai Bk	113	109	113	110
PTT Explor	290	286	290	286
Siam Cement F	1222	1210	1216	1210
Telecomasia	70	67.50	70	67
Thai Airways	48	45.75	48	45.25
Thai Farm Bk F	286	276	286	276
Thai Teleph	88	85	86	85
Utd Comm	352	336	352	340

SET index: 1263.98
Previous: 1247.79

Bombay

Wednesday, March 13

	High	Low	Close	Prev.
Assoc Cement	3540	3410	3530	3445
Grasim Ind	600	595	595	590
Hindalco Ind	1110	1100	1100	1105
Indust Lever	690	675	685	680
Indian Hotels	715	685	710	685
ITC	260	236	260	238
Larsen Toubro	250	245	248	244
Reliance Ind	228	222.50	227	218
Tata Eng Loco	422	412	420	412
Tata Iron St	197.25	189.75	196	190

Sensitive index: 3373.73
Previous: 3299.90

Brussels

	High	Low	Close	Prev.
Arbed	3390	3280	3330	3290
Barco Ind	4010	3985	3990	4010
BBL	5800	5650	5800	5720
Bekaert	29700	29200	29300	29425
CBR	12250	12200	12225	12250
CMB	2475	2450	2470	2490
Cockerill	179	176	179	180
Colruyt	10425	10050	10425	10400
Delhaize Lion	1360	1338	1360	1358
Electrabel	6850	6780	6820	6820
Electrafina	2880	2825	2880	2840
Fortis AG	3700	3650	3675	3655
GIB	1490	1474	1490	1498
GBL	3960	3900	3950	3970
Gen Banque	11025	10950	11025	10975
Glaverbel	3450	3440	3440	3450
Kredietbank	8470	8370	8440	8500
Masane	2145	2145	2145	2140
Petrofina	8570	8500	8550	8560
Powerfin	3905	3890	3900	3900
Recticel	324	318	318	325
Royale Belge	6180	6100	6100	6160
Soc Gen Belg	2465	2440	2460	2480
Solvay	18100	17950	18050	18000
Tessenderlo	12575	12400	12575	12425
Tractebel	12550	12375	12550	12600
UCB	51150	50600	51150	51000
Union Miniere	2290	2260	2290	2275

Stock Exchange index: 8748.59
Previous: 8741.47

Copenhagen

	High	Low	Close	Prev.
Carlsberg B	314	310	312	312
Danisco	287	281.65	284	283
Den Danske Bk	380	374	376	376
D/S Svendborg A	175000	173000	173000	174000
D/S 1912 A	121000	120000	121000	122000
East Asiatic Co	115	108	112	115
FLS Ind B	460.58	459.31	459.54	470
ISS Intl Svc B	136	132	135	135
Nvo Nordisk B	750	728.25	734	744
Radiometer B	410.62	405	405	405
Sophus Ber B	647	639.20	645	644
Tele Danmk B	331	327	331	331
Unidanmark A	265	256	263	257

Stock Market index: 381.15
Previous: 381.75

Frankfurt

	High	Low	Close	Prev.
AMB	818	818	818	780
AEG	160	159	159	160
Allianz Hdg	2675	2660	2668	2675
Altana	978	957.50	960	987
Asko Deutsche	N.T.	N.T.	N.T.	780
Badenwerk	496	496	496	498
BASF	388.90	385	387.90	384.40
Bayer Hypo Bk	36.15	35.98	36.05	36.28
Bay.Vereinsbank	43.85	43.80	43.80	43.80
Bayer	465	459.30	463.20	461
Berliner Kraft	412	411	411.50	408
BHF Bank	40	39.40	39.80	40.50
BMW	807	803	805	809.50
CKAG Colonia	1140	1135	1140	1140
Commerzbank	329	327.50	329	327.20
Daimler Benz	800.80	799	799	801.80
Degussa	532.50	531	531	531
Deutsche Bank	72.95	72.52	72.60	73.14
Dresdner Bank	37.80	37.70	37.80	37.62
Heidelbg Zmt	945	940	945	945
Henkel	550	547	547	544
Hochtief	600	595	597	598
Hoechst	472.50	463.50	468.60	470
Holzmann Ph.	528	520	522	518
Karstadt	564	554	562	546.10
Kaufhof Hdg	N.T.	N.T.	N.T.	472
Linde	863	852	853	855.50
Lufthansa ord	224	223	223	225
MAN	402	397	398.60	401
Mannesmann	517	515	516	512.80
Muench Rueck	3019	3012	3015	3012
Preussag	422.50	420.50	420.70	418.50
PWA	191	190	190.50	187.30
RWE	57.50	57.24	57.40	57.25
SAP pfd	219.80	213.50	214.80	211.90
Schering	112.65	112.05	112.30	112.35
Schmalb Lub	240	231	235	248
Siemens	831.50	826.20	827	821.40
Suedzucker	745	740	740	744
Thyssen	279.50	277.50	277.70	279.80
Veba	68.80	68.35	68.35	68.88
VEW	480	472	480	470
Viag	638.50	634	636.50	642.80
Volkswagen	531	527.25	529.25	532
Wella	718.50	712	715	712

DAX index: 2426.49
Previous: 2426.38

Helsinki

	High	Low	Close	Prev.
Cultor 1	199	195	195	193
Enso-Gutzeit R	33.50	33	33.40	33
Huhtamaki IF	150	148	149	146
Kesko	57.90	57.50	57.90	57.20
Kone BF	445	427	445	425
Kymmene F	129	126	128	126.50
Merita A	11.50	11.40	11.40	11.40
Metra BF	182	178.50	180	178
Metsa-Serla B	145	144	144.50	143.50
Nokia Prf F	169	165.50	168.50	168
Outokumpu A	88	83	88	83
Rautaruukki	33.20	32.50	32.50	32.50
Repola	92	90.50	91.50	90.50
Stockmann A	245	240	243	247
Valmet A	115	114	114.50	113

HEX General index: 1866.92
Previous: 1852.92

Hong Kong

	High	Low	Close	Prev.
Amoy Props	8.70	8.55	8.70	8.60
Bk East Asia	25.30	24.70	25.25	25
Cathay Pacific	13.30	12.95	13	13
Cheung Kong	50.75	49.70	50.25	49.70
China Light	33.80	33.50	33.60	33.60
Chin Estates	6.20	6.05	6.15	6.05
Citic Pacific	28.20	27.70	28.15	27.75
Cons Elec Pwr	12.65	12.25	12.35	12.55
Dao Heng Bk	30	29.50	29.95	29.55
First Pacific	10.25	10	10.15	9.95
Great Eagle	21.40	20.20	21.40	20.40
Guangdong Inv	4.60	4.38	4.48	4.58
Guoco Group	39	38.60	39	38.80
Hang Lung	14.10	13.70	13.95	13.90
Hang Seng Bk	74.75	72.50	74.50	72
Henderson Inv	6.85	6.65	6.85	6.70
Henderson Ld	52.25	50	52	50.50
HKR Intl	7.60	7.40	7.55	7.50
HK Aircraft	20.50	20	20.05	20
HK China Gas	14.50	14.25	14.50	14.30
HK Electric	25	24.55	24.90	24.60
HK Shang Htls	11.80	11.35	11.80	11.25
HK Telecomm	14.85	14.45	14.70	14.35
Hopewell Hdgs	4.90	4.73	4.78	4.80
HSBC Hdgs	115	112	115	112
Hutchison Wh	45.40	44.20	45.10	45
Hysan Dev	21.80	21.15	21.55	21.40
Johnson El 500	14.05	13.90	13.90	13.90
Miramar Hotel	15.50	15.20	15.50	14.90
Natl Mutual	7.15	7	7.15	7
New World	34.40	33.50	34.30	33.90
Oriental Press	3.22	3.13	3.15	3.13
Orient Telecom	2.43	2.38	2.43	2.38
Shangri-La	10.40	10.20	10.40	10.10
SHK Props	65.75	64	65.75	64.25
Shun Tak Hdgs	5.30	5.10	5.25	5.20
Sino Land Co.	7.30	7.10	7.20	7.15
Sth China Post	5.30	4.98	4.98	5
Swire Pac A	64	62.25	64	62
Tsim Sha Tsui	8.40	8.25	8.35	8.30
TV Broadcasts	27.50	27.10	27.50	27
Wharf Hdgs	27.70	26.95	27.70	27
Wheelock	14.80	14.30	14.80	14.35

Hang Seng index: 10451.75
Previous: 10249.48

Jakarta

	High	Low	Close	Prev.
Astra Intl	3000	2800	2875	2775
Barito Pacific	2100	2000	2100	2000
Gudang Garm	27100	26525	26750	26525
Indah Kiat	1800	1750	1775	1725
Indocement	8800	8725	8725	8800
Indofood	11250	11200	11225	11175
Indorayon	2550	2400	2525	2375
Indosat	8200	8000	8100	7900
Kalbe Farma	7175	7100	7175	7050
Sampoerna	23450	23000	23000	23000

Composite index: 549.91
Previous: 548.13

Johannesburg

	High	Low	Close	Prev.
AngloAm-Corp	247	246	246	246.50
AngloAm Gold	411	410	411	409
AngloAm Ind	176	176	176	176
Barlow	52.75	52.50	52.75	52.50
C.G. Smith	27.75	27.75	27.75	27.75
De Beers	123.75	122.50	122.50	123.75
Driefontein	61.25	60	60.75	59.25
Freegold	38.75	38	38.25	38.50
Fst Natl Bk	33	33	33	32.50
Gencor	14.50	14.35	14.35	14.50
GFSA	132	131	132	131
Iscor	3.58	3.53	3.53	3.55
Johnnies Ind	56.50	56.50	56.50	56
Kloof Gold	51.25	50.50	51	50
Liberty Life	123	122	123	120
Nedcor	62.25	62	62.25	62
Rembrandt Gp	38	37.50	37.50	37.50
Richemont	55.50	55.25	55.50	55.75
Rust Platinum	69	67.50	67.50	70
SA Breweries	135	133.50	133.50	134.50
Sappi	47	46.50	47	46.75
Sasol	38.40	38.05	38.10	38.10
SBIC	175	175	175	172
Tiger Oats	67	67	67	67

All Market index: 6663.93
Previous: 6642.14

Kuala Lumpur

	High	Low	Close	Prev.
Genting	23.40	22.10	23.30	22.10
Hicom Hldgs	5.55	5.40	5.55	5.45
Mal Banking	24.10	23.60	23.90	23.60
Mal Intl Ship F	7.40	7.25	7.35	7.25
Public Bank F	6.85	6.40	6.85	6.40
Resorts World	15.10	14.80	15	14.60
Sime Darby	6.75	6.40	6.75	6.45
Telekom Mal	22.40	21.70	22.20	21.70
Tenaga	10.80	10.60	10.80	10.60
Utd Engineers	16.70	16.50	16.70	16.50

Composite index: 1109.00
Previous: 1084.83

London

	High	Low	Close	Prev.
Abbey Natl	5.44	5.31	5.43	5.33
Allied Domecq	5.10	4.94	4.98	5.03
Anglian Water	5.99	5.90	5.95	5.94
Argyll Group	3.16	3.12	3.14	3.14
Arjo Wiggins	2.06	2.02	2.02	2.04
Asda Group	1.06	1.03	1.05	1.05
Assoc Br Foods	4.09	4.05	4.08	4.07
BAA	5.33	5.17	5.27	5.20
Barclays	7.09	6.94	7	6.94
Bass	7.54	7.40	7.40	7.48
BAT Ind	5.22	5	5.12	5.10
Bank Scotland	2.55	2.44	2.53	2.46
BICC	3.40	3.30	3.39	3.30
Blue Circle	3.45	3.39	3.43	3.40
BOC Group	9.29	9.22	9.22	9.26
Boots	6.05	5.96	5.96	6.03
Rexam	3.64	3.50	3.57	3.53
BPB Ind	3.16	3.13	3.14	3.19
Brit Aerosp	8.87	8.73	8.81	8.79
Brit Airways	5.38	5.26	5.33	5.25
Brit Gas	2.35	2.32	2.33	2.33
Brit Petm	5.52	5.42	5.45	5.48
Brit Steel	1.86	1.84	1.84	1.84
Brit Telecom	3.66	3.50	3.50	3.55
BTR	3.36	3.20	3.35	3.21
Burmah Cast	10.45	10.28	10.30	10.47
Cable Wireless	4.72	4.64	4.68	4.68
Cadbury Schw	5.17	5.09	5.13	5.12
Caradon	2.15	2.10	2.10	2.13
Carlton Comm	4.27	4.21	4.24	4.21
Coats Viyella	2	1.89	2	2.01
Comml Union	5.97	5.58	5.74	5.58
Courtaulds	4.29	4.18	4.25	4.23
De La Rue	7.28	7.15	7.26	7.20
Eng China Cl	3.32	3.11	3.19	3.16
Enterprise Oil	4.20	3.82	4.18	3.84
Fam Colonial	1.57	1.54	1.54	1.55
Forte	3.51	3.47	3.48	3.51
Genl Accident	6.33	6.15	6.26	6.20
GEC	3.66	3.53	3.65	3.54
GKN	9.17	9.10	9.14	9.10
Glaxo	8.28	7.93	8.13	8.03
Granada Gp	7.40	7.18	7.33	7.22
Grand Met	4.33	4.21	4.26	4.20
GRE	2.37	2.27	2.34	2.27
Guinness	4.69	4.62	4.62	4.65
GUS	6.92	6.78	6.85	6.78
Hanson	1.95	1.90	1.92	1.91
Hillsdown Hdg	1.82	1.77	1.82	1.81
HSBC Hldgs	9.70	9.63	9.66	9.41
ICI	9.28	8.28	9.27	9.30
Inchcape	2.73	2.56	2.59	2.63
Kingfisher	5.33	5.23	5.28	5.24
Ladbroke	1.90	1.76	1.90	1.76
Land Sec	6.05	5.99	6.05	6.02
Laporte	7.12	7	7.12	7.03
Lasmo	1.83	1.77	1.81	1.78
Legal Genl Grp	6.87	6.62	6.82	6.77
Lloyds Abbey	5.19	5.13	5.17	5.15
Lloyds TSB Gp	3.09	3	3.04	3.07
London Elec	7.71	7.18	7.23	7.22
Lucas Ind	1.94	1.91	1.91	1.93
Marks Spencer	4.35	4.26	4.28	4.31
MEPC	3.93	3.88	3.91	3.94
Mercury Asset	8.50	8.38	8.41	8.49
Midlands Elec	3.97	3.85	3.90	3.89
Natl Power	4.70	4.56	4.56	4.68
NatWest	6.25	6.18	6.21	6.17
News Intl	3.08	3.03	3.08	3
Utd Utilities	6	5.89	5.98	5.91
Nthern Foods	1.94	1.90	1.91	1.91
P&O	5.22	5.12	5.16	5.11
Pearson	6.88	6.73	6.76	6.84
Pilkington	2.15	2.08	2.11	2.14
Powergen	5.17	5.05	5.08	5.15
Prudential	4.51	4.16	4.47	4.47
Rank Org	4.95	4.83	4.88	4.83
Reckitt Colm	6.57	6.30	6.55	6.20
Redland	4.17	4.07	4.15	4.09
Reed Intl	11.03	10.54	11	10.55
Rentokil	3.50	3.47	3.48	3.47
Reuters Hdgs	7.09	6.93	7.05	6.96
RMC Group	10.26	10.06	10.16	10.34
Rolls Royce	2.14	2.04	2.11	2.03
Royal Bk Scot	5.32	5.17	5.28	5.14
RTZ reg	9.66	9.13	9.18	9.12
Royal Insur	3.50	3.39	3.50	3.41
Sainsbury	3.76	3.71	3.74	3.74
Schroders	12.35	11.90	12	12.25
Scot Newcastle	6.49	6.43	6.44	6.45
Scot Power	3.53	3.48	3.50	3.50
Sears	0.99	0.98	0.99	0.98
Severn Trent	6.45	6.30	6.32	6.35
Shell Trsp reg	8.56	7.41	8.38	8.39
Siebe	8.30	8.16	8.30	8.16
Smith Nephew	1.87	1.85	1.86	1.84
Smith (WH)	4.26	4.22	4.26	4.23
SmithKline dA	6.78	6.63	6.67	6.69
Smiths Ind	6.83	6.79	6.80	6.81
Sthern Elec	8.60	8.51	8.60	8.55
Stand Charter	6.09	5.86	5.98	5.85
Sun Alliance	3.69	3.31	3.68	3.59
Tate & Lyle	4.85	4.73	4.79	4.82
Tesco	2.80	2.72	2.75	2.78
Thames Water	5.57	5.48	5.50	5.47
Thorn EMI	16.45	16.15	16.30	16.24
3i Group	4.17	4.10	4.14	4.13
TI Group	4.80	4.73	4.79	4.79
Tomkins	2.60	2.55	2.58	2.55
Unilever	12.35	12.20	12.29	12.25
Utd Biscuits	2.36	2.29	2.32	2.28
Utd News	6.13	6.04	6.10	6.03
Vendome uts	5.77	5.71	5.71	5.76
Vodafone	2.53	2.41	2.51	2.49
Whitbread	7.05	7	7.03	7
Williams Hdgs	3.22	3.11	3.13	3.20
Wolseley	4.63	4.58	4.60	4.60
Zeneca	14.10	13.40	13.98	13.40

FT-SE 100 index: 3681.80
Previous: 3640.30

Madrid

	High	Low	Close	Prev.
Acerinox	13300	13190	13240	13300
ACESA	1185	1170	1170	1175
Argentaria	5220	5180	5210	5190
BBV	4490	4460	4490	4475
Banesto	839	824	839	830
Bankinter	12300	12150	12200	12200
Bco Centro Hisp	2605	2585	2600	2600
Bco Exterior	3140	3100	3140	3150
Bco Popular	20400	20310	20370	20400
Bco Santander	5630	5550	5620	5650
CEPSA	3760	3715	3750	3710
Corp Mapfre	6360	6220	6360	6400
Dragados	1630	1605	1620	1615
Endesa	6670	6590	6670	6650
FECSA	771	761	763	763
Fomento Const	10560	10350	10560	10500
Gas Natural	19840	19700	19840	19840
Hidrol Cantab	3950	3875	3940	3925
Iberdrola	1085	1060	1085	1075
Pryca	2390	2360	2370	2390
Repsol	4540	4470	4540	4480
Sevillana Elec	878	867	871	878
Tabacalera	5940	5660	5940	5770
Telefonica	1990	1960	1985	1980
Union Fenosa	649	644	649	649
Valenc Cement	1375	1365	1375	1365

Stock Exchange index: 328.49
Previous: 327.50

Manila

	High	Low	Close	Prev.
Ayala A	23.25	23	23	23.25
Ayala Land	37	36	36.50	36.50
Manila Elec A	154	152	153	152
Metro Bank	605	590	600	600
Petron	12.50	12	12.25	12.25
Phil Long Dist	1460	1455	1455	1460
San Miguel A	53	51	53	51
San Miguel B	91	89.50	90	89
SM Prime Hdg	7.30	7.20	7.30	7.30

PSE index: 2783.63
Previous: 2769.92

Mexico

	High	Low	Close	Prev.
Alfa A	97.30	95.50	95.50	96.30
Cemex B	28.20	26.90	26.90	28.00
Cifra C	9.10	8.94	9.06	8.94
Empresas ICA	92.60	90.60	91.90	92.20
Emp Moderna	33.85	33.35	33.70	33.40
Femsa	21.10	20.60	20.90	20.75
Gpo Carso A1	50.50	49.80	49.90	49.75
Televisa CPO	92.30	90.70	92.00	92.30
TelMex L	11.58	11.36	11.38	11.42
Tribasa CPO	25.60	25.00	25.20	25.20

Bolsa index: 2853.52
Previous: 2864.93

Milan

	High	Low	Close	Prev.
Alleanza Assic	13490	13115	13320	13295
Bca Comm Ital	3280	3205	3260	3230
Bca Naz Agricol	1017	1000	1005	1012
Bca Naz Lavoro	12400	12260	12350	12400
Bca di Roma	1445	1405	1430	1435
Bco Ambrosiano	4320	4070	4245	4115
Benetton	16800	15350	15865	16900
Credito Italiano	1737	1695	1722	1711
Fiat	5190	5130	5130	5175
Fondiaria	7305	7025	7275	7110
Generali Assic	36600	36050	36500	36300
IFIL	4920	4840	4890	4900
Italcementi	10700	10500	10700	10630
Italgas	4750	4620	4750	4635
Mediobanca	10250	10055	10200	10125
Montedison	945	933	940	942
Olivetti	762	713	740	766
Pirelli	2235	2210	2230	2240
RAS	16180	15810	16075	16070
Rinascente	10485	10150	10150	10360
S Paolo Torino	9000	8780	8855	8885
SME	1720	1703	1705	1600
Standa	N.T.	N.T.	N.T.	20000
Stet	4590	4500	4580	4580
Telecom Italia	2445	2405	2410	2460
Toro Assic	20800	20500	20750	20800

MIB Telematico index: 9429.00
Previous: 9417.00

Montreal

	High	Low	Close	Prev.
Alco I	18¼	18⅛	18¼	18⅛
Bank Montreal	32	31¾	32	31½
Bce Mob Com	47	46⅞	47	47¼
Cdn Tire A	15¼	15⅛	15¼	15¼
Cdn Util A	26½	25⅞	25⅞	26
Cascades	6½	6	6½	6
CT Finl Svc	27	27	27	27¼
Extendicare	36⅛	36	36⅛	35½
Gaz Metro	15	14⅞	14⅞	14⅞
Gt-West Lifeco	30	29¾	30	29¾
Hees Intl Bcp	15	15	15	15⅛
Hudsons Bay	16⅛	16⅛	16⅛	16⅛
Imasco	26	25½	25⅝	25½
Investors Grp	18	17¾	18	17¾
Loblaw Cos	34¼	34¼	34¼	34¼
Molson A	23⅝	23	23⅝	23⅝
Natl Bk Canada	11⅛	11⅛	11⅛	11⅛
Oshawa A	23	22⅞	22⅞	22⅞
Pancdn Petlm	N.T.	N.T.	N.T.	50¼
Power Corp	19⅛	19⅛	19⅛	19⅛
Power Finl	33⅛	33⅛	33⅛	33
Quebecor B	22	21⅞	21⅞	21⅞
Rogers Comm B	12⅞	12⅞	12⅞	12⅞
Royal Bk Cda	31⅞	31⅝	31⅞	31⅛
Sears Canada	6½	6⅛	6½	6⅛
Shell Cda A	45	44⅝	45	44⅝
Southam	16⅛	16	16⅛	16⅛
Stelco A	6	6	6	6
Trilon Finl A	4.90	4.85	4.85	4.90

Industrials index: 2511.42
Previous: 2509.16

Oslo

	High	Low	Close	Prev.
Aker A	116	114	114.50	116.50
Bergesen Dy B	116	113	116	112
Christiania Bk	15.90	15.70	15.80	15.60
Den Norske Bk	20.70	20.60	20.60	20.70
DI Norsk Luft	297	296	297	295
Dyno Indust	147	142.50	147	144
Elkem	86.50	83	86	85.50
Hafslund A	187	184.50	186	187
Kvaerner	231.50	226	231	225
Leif Hoegh	89	88	88	88
Norsk Hydro	278.50	276	278	277.50
Norske Skog A	207	202.50	206	204
Orkla	292	290	290	292
Rieber B	136	136	136	138
Saga Petlm B	74	72.50	74	71.50
Schibsted	88	86	88	86.50
UniStorebr A	33	31.70	32	33

OBX index: 431.35
Previous: 429.94

Paris

	High	Low	Close	Prev.
Accor	712	698	708	712
AGF	148	144	146	141.90
Air Liquide	877	863	877	870
Alcatel Alsth	432.70	427.50	431.70	428.10
Axa	305.80	302.10	304.90	306.80
Bancaire	513	504	511	506
BNP	195	188.30	193.40	187.10
Bouygues	480.20	477.10	479.50	481
Canal Plus	1079	1066	1074	1069
Carrefour	3449	3405	3440	3433
CCF	236	232.50	233.40	234.30
CarnaudMB	275	208.50	208.50	214.80
Credit Local d	403	399.30	399.60	397.50
Credit Lyon PC	233.90	223.10	226	230.30
Danone	767	760	763	765
Elf-Aquitaine	348.20	335.70	348.20	338.40
Eridania BS	843	825	838	835
Euro Disney	14.20	14.05	14.10	14.20
Eurotunnel uts	6.05	5.95	6.05	6.05
Gen. Eaux	502	492	500	494.50
Havas	401	393.50	400	396.30
Lafarge Cop	355	347.60	354.20	349.30
Legrand	869	860	868	870
L'Oreal	1395	1370	1395	1383
LVMH	1135	1113	1133	1115
Lyon. Eaux	456.50	453	457	455
Michelin B	238.40	236.10	237	238.90
Navig Mixte	803	800	800	802
Paribas A	284	281.10	283.30	281.10
Pechiney Intl	107	103.30	104.20	106.30
Pernod Ricard	313.40	307.20	313.50	310.30
Peugeot Cit	769	752	769	798
Pinault-Print	1149	1126	1149	1137
Promodes	1220	1207	1212	1214
Renault	146	142.10	143.30	144.50
Rh-Poulenc A	125	122.60	124.70	123.50
Roussel-Uclaf	1058	1042	1058	1051
Sanofi	373.50	363.50	373.50	364.80
Schneider	225.80	221.90	225.90	224.10
Ste Generale	563	546	550	548
St Gobain	639	631	636	634
St Louis	1470	1446	1469	1465
Suez	192.30	186	192.30	186.10
Thomson CSF	116.50	113.60	116	114.60
Total B	322.40	316.60	322.40	316.80
UAP	113.40	110.10	111.50	111.40
Valeo	265.50	256	265.50	256

CAC-40 index: 1962.41
Previous: 1944.38

São Paulo

	High	Low	Close	Prev.
Bco Brasil Pfd	12.710	11.950	12.270	11.980
Banespa Pfd	4.750	4.60	4.750	4.70
Bradesco Pfd	10.30	10.060	10.250	10.30
Brahma Pfd	480.00	461.00	470.00	468.00
Cemig Pfd	26.30	24.80	25.990	25.10
CESP Pfd	35.20	34.40	35.00	34.40
Eletrobras B	262.00	255.00	260.00	257.00
Itaubanco Pfd	338.00	330.00	338.00	330.00
Light	325.00	315.030	325.00	320.00
Paranapan Pfd	14.10	12.60	13.90	12.60
Petrobras Pfd	115.00	110.50	114.00	112.00
Sid Nacional	27.30	26.50	27.010	26.50
Souza Cruz	7.2000	7.2000	7.2000	7.2000
Telebras Pfd	49.00	38.850	48.70	48.70
Telesp Pfd	160.00	154.00	157.00	156.00
Usiminas Pfd	1.080	1.050	1.070	1.050
CVRD Pfd	148.00	143.50	147.00	144.80

Bovespa index: 49472.89
Previous: 48855.98

Seoul

	High	Low	Close	Prev.
Daewoo Heavy	7970	7650	7830	7660
Hyundai Eng	36800	36100	36300	36300
Hyundai Motor	36600	35900	36300	35900
Korea El Pwr	29700	29100	29400	29200
Korea Mob Tel	625000	612000	620000	618000
LG Electronics	21000	20100	20800	20500
Pohang Iron St	54000	52800	53300	53000
Samsung Elec	87500	83600	84000	87500
Samsung Hvy	15900	15600	15800	15800
Yukong	25000	23780	24800	23800

Composite index: 844.43
Previous: 838.87

Singapore

	High	Low	Close	Prev.
Cerebos Pac	12.40	12.30	12.40	12.40
City Devlts	11.30	10.80	11.30	11
Cycle Carriage	15	14.10	14.70	14.50
Dairy Farm Intl *	0.95	0.93	0.95	0.95
DBS	9.85	9.70	9.80	9.70
DBS Land	5.10	4.90	5	5.05
Fraser & Neave	15.40	14.90	15.30	15.20
HK Land *	2.16	2.08	2.15	2.09
Hong Leong Fin	3.94	3.92	3.94	3.98
Jard Matheson *	7.70	7.45	7.70	7.45
Jard Strategic *	3.30	3.20	3.30	3.24
Keppel	12.70	12.10	12.70	12.20
Natsteel	2.79	2.71	2.78	2.69
Neptune Orient	1.59	1.54	1.59	1.54
OCBC foreign	18.80	18	18.70	18.20
OSea Union Bk	7.10	7	7	7.05
Sembawang	7.20	7	7.20	7
Sing Airlines F	13.70	13.50	13.60	13.50
Sing Petlm	1.70	1.70	1.70	1.70
Sing Press F	26.90	26.20	26.90	26.50
ST Auto F	3.22	3.16	3.20	3.18
ST Ship	2.53	2.51	2.53	2.51
Sing Telecomm	3.34	3.18	3.24	3.26
Straits Steam	4.44	4.32	4.44	4.30
Utd Industrial	1.44	1.41	1.44	1.42
Utd OSea Bk F	14.30	13.90	14.10	13.60
Wing Tai Hdgs	3.44	3.26	3.42	3.30

*: in U.S. dollars.
Straits Times index: 2329.58
Previous: 2300.73

Stockholm

	High	Low	Close	Prev.
AGA BF	96	94	95	96
Asea AF	693	689	689	689
AssiDoman F	153.50	149	152	150
Astra AF	302	295	302	298
Atlas Copco AF	124.50	122	123.50	124
Avesta F	71.50	70	70.50	71
Electrolux BF	342	336	340	337
Ericsson BF	148.50	146	148	146
Gambro BF	N.T.	N.T.	N.T.	154
Hennes BF	460	451	456.50	460
Incentive AF	342	337.50	342	339
Investor BF	259	255	258.50	255.50
Kinnevik BF	232	227	228	227.50
MoDo BF	354	347.50	349	348
Sandvik BF	143	140.50	141.50	142
SCA BF	122	121	121	121.50
S-E Banken AF	46.90	46.20	46.70	46.30
Skandia Fors F	153	149	153	149.50
Skanska BF	198	194.50	195.90	193.50
SKF BF	157	153	156	153
SSAB BF	82.50	81	82.50	83
Stora AF	90.50	88	90	89.50
Sv Handles AF	124.50	123	124.50	125
Sydkraft AF	140	140	140	140
Trelleborg BF	86.50	84.50	85	86
Volvo BF	154.50	152	154	152.50

SX 16 index: 2040.92
Previous: 2021.47

Sydney

	High	Low	Close	Prev.
Amcor	8.70	8.56	8.56	8.59
ANZ Bkng	6.25	6.13	6.20	6.13
BHP	18.22	17.96	18.03	18.14
Boral	3.42	3.36	3.38	3.36
Brambles Ind.	14.38	14.26	14.34	14.30
Burns Philp	2.81	2.79	2.81	2.77
CBA	10.02	9.95	9.99	9.99
CC Amatil	12.63	12.40	12.60	12.55
Coles Myer	4.27	4.17	4.23	4.28
Comalco	7	6.93	7	6.92
CRA Ltd	19.40	19.35	19.42	19.44
CSR	4.36	4.30	4.33	4.34
Fosters Brew	2.22	2.21	2.21	2.22
GIO Australia	2.76	2.72	2.73	2.75
Goodman Fld	1.34	1.32	1.33	1.35
ICI Australia	10.76	10.62	10.76	10.70
John Fairfax	2.87	2.84	2.87	2.83
Lend Lease	18.40	18.10	18.11	18.35
Mayne Nickless	6.80	6.70	6.74	6.70
MIM Hdgs	1.72	1.70	1.72	1.70
Nat Aust Bank	11.82	11.64	11.72	11.77
News Corp	7.39	7.22	7.34	7.22
North Ltd	3.80	3.80	3.81	3.82
Pacific Dunlop	2.95	2.90	2.93	2.92
Pioneer Intl	3.77	3.73	3.73	3.74
Placer Pacific	2.50	2.39	2.48	2.42
Santos	4.25	4.17	4.25	4.16
Southcorp	3.38	3.31	3.32	3.33
Wesfarmers	7.92	7.80	7.85	7.92
Wstrn Mining	8.49	8.36	8.44	8.40
Westfield Trt	2.24	2.23	2.24	2.24
Westpac Bkng	5.75	5.63	5.70	5.65
Woodside Pet	6.92	6.84	6.90	6.80
Woolworths	3.24	3.18	3.18	3.22

All Ordinaries index: 2210.40
Previous: 2209.10

Taipei

	High	Low	Close	Prev.
Asia Cement	44.90	44.40	44.90	44.80
Cathay Life Ins	120	118.50	119.50	118
Chang Hwa Bk	105	103	103.50	103
China Steel	19.70	19.30	19.50	19.30
China Trust	41.50	40.60	41.40	40.70
Evergreen	45.50	44.50	45.50	44.60
Far East Text	24.50	23.80	24.40	24.10
First Bank	107	105.50	107	106
Formosa CF	24.50	24.10	24.30	24.30
Hua Nan Bk	92.50	90.50	92	90.50
Hualon Teijran	16.20	15.30	16.10	15.30
ICBC	75	73.50	75	73.50
President Ent	32.10	31.40	32.10	31.70
Taiwan Cmnt	38	37.50	37.80	37.70
Tatung	49.20	48.60	49.20	48.70

Stock Market index: 4851.45
Previous: 4751.88

Tokyo

	High	Low	Close	Prev.
Ajinomoto	1090	1070	1090	1080
All Nippon Air	1050	1040	1050	1050
Asahi Bank	1220	1200	1220	1200
Asahi Chem	759	748	759	749
Asahi Glass	1160	1150	1160	1150
Bank of Tokyo	1650	1610	1640	1590
Bk Yokohama	760	758	759	759
Bridgestone	1660	1650	1660	1660
Canon	1810	1780	1800	1820
Chiba Bank	867	859	866	867
Chubu Elec	2430	2410	2420	2420
Chugoku Elec	2370	2350	2360	2370
Daiei	1220	1170	1220	1180
Daiichi Kang	2000	1970	2000	1980
Daiwa Bank	727	716	716	716
Daiwa House	1600	1580	1600	1590
Daiwa Sec	1510	1470	1500	1470
Fanuc	4150	4080	4100	4080
Fuji Bank	2220	2140	2220	2140
Fuji Photo	2940	2840	2890	2950
Fujitsu	960	950	950	950
Hitachi	998	988	996	995
Honda Motor	2130	2100	2130	2150
IBJ	2730	2680	2730	2680
IHI	449	442	449	444
Itochu	680	672	678	680
Ito-Yokado	5800	5700	5790	5800
JAL	735	730	730	735
Jusco	2650	2620	2620	2620
Kajima	1040	1020	1030	1040
Kansai Elec	2410	2390	2400	2400
Kao	1290	1270	1290	1290
Kawa Steel	358	352	356	352
KDD	8750	8600	8630	8750
Kinki Nipp Ry	794	788	791	788
Kirin Brewery	1230	1210	1220	1220
Kobe Steel	299	296	298	298
Komatsu	896	882	896	885
Kubota	682	664	682	662
Kyocera	6820	6780	6790	6800
Kyushu Elec	2430	2410	2430	2420
LTCB	788	782	786	783
Marubeni	556	543	549	555
Marui	2000	1970	1980	1990
Matsu Elec Ind	1680	1650	1680	1650
Matsu Elec Wk	1120	1100	1120	1100
Mitsubishi	1240	1220	1240	1240
Mitsubishi Bk	2200	2160	2200	2730
Mitsubishi Ch	532	521	532	522
Mitsubishi El	742	736	742	736
Mitsubishi Est	1310	1270	1310	1280
Mitsubishi Hvy	845	839	844	839
Mitsubishi Mat	870	864	870	867
Mitsubishi Tr	1590	1560	1590	1560
Mitsui	900	894	895	900
Mitsui Fudosn	1260	1210	1260	1200
Mitsui Trust	1140	1110	1140	1120
Murata Mfg	3230	3100	3230	3100
NEC	1140	1120	1140	1120
New Oji Paper	935	931	935	932
Nikko Sec	1230	1210	1230	1210
Nintendo	6550	6210	6550	6310
Nipp Credit Bk	430	421	429	422
Nipp Express	979	970	979	975
Nippon Oil	632	620	632	616
Nippon Paper	726	713	726	716
Nippon Steel	339	336	338	336
Nippon Yusen	579	571	579	576
Nippondenso	2860	2840	2860	2850
Nissan Motor	800	793	800	803
NKK	298	287	288	290
Nomura Sec	2180	2140	2180	2140
NTT	7460a	7420a	7440a	7460a
Obayashi	849	839	849	840
Odakyu El Ry	708	700	708	701
Ono Pharm	3630	3450	3630	3450
Osaka Gas	366	363	366	365
Ricoh	1180	1090	1100	1180
Sakura Bk	1150	1130	1140	1150
Sankyo	2470	2460	2470	2480
Sanwa Bank	2010	1980	2000	1980
Sanyo Elec	597	588	593	598
Secom	6630	6530	6630	6650
Seibu Rwy	4850	4720	4850	4700
Sekisui House	1260	1250	1260	1250
Seven-Eleven	6980	6920	6970	6950
Sharp	1600	1580	1590	1590
Shimizu	1060	1040	1050	1060
Shin-etsu Ch	2080	2050	2070	2070
Shizuoka Bk	1270	1260	1270	1270
Sony	6190	6120	6190	6130
Sumitomo	1040	1020	1040	1050
Sumitomo Bk	2040	2010	2040	2000
Sumit Chem	529	520	529	527
Sumitomo Elec	1320	1300	1320	1320
Sumit Metal	299	295	299	294
Sumit Trust	1250	1220	1250	1260
Taisei	697	687	690	691
Taisho Pharm	2050	2040	2040	2050
Takeda Chem	1540	1520	1540	1530
TDK	5070	5020	5050	5030
Tohoku El Pwr	2460	2450	2460	2460
Tokai Bank	1380	1360	1360	1370
Tokio Marine	1240	1230	1240	1230
Tokyo El Pwr	2720	2700	2720	2720
Tokyo Gas	368	360	368	359
Tokyu	749	731	749	739
Tonen	1470	1450	1470	1450
Toppan Print	1360	1350	1360	1380
Toray Ind	664	655	664	664
Toshiba	770	760	765	760
Toyo Seikan	3290	3240	3240	3270
Toyo Trust	925	921	922	925
Toyota Motor	2220	2200	2210	2210
Yamaichi Sec	735	723	732	728
Yamanouchi	2330	2300	2310	2330
Yasuda Fire	742	738	737	733
Yasuda Trust	595	583	583	592

a: x 100
Nikkei 225 index: 19923.64
Previous: 19734.70

Toronto

	High	Low	Close	Prev.
Abitibi Price	20¼	19⅞	20⅛	19½
Air Canada	4.65	4.55	4.60	4.65
Alberta Energy	24¼	24⅛	24⅛	24⅛
Alcan Alum	46	45⅞	45⅞	45¼
Avenor A	30⅛	29⅞	30⅛	29⅞
Bk Nova Scotia	30⅛	30⅛	30⅛	30⅛
Barrick Gold	40¼	39⅞	40⅛	39⅞
BCE	48	47⅞	47⅞	47⅞
BC Telecomm	25⅛	25⅛	25⅛	25
Bombardier B	20⅛	20⅛	20⅛	20⅛
Brascan A	24⅛	23⅞	23⅞	23⅞
Cameco	75⅛	73⅛	73⅛	75⅛
CIBC	41⅛	40⅞	41⅛	41
Cdn Airlines	2⅝	2.70	2⅝	2.70
Cdn Nat Res	23⅝	22⅞	23½	22⅝
Cdn Occid Pet	44	43⅞	44	44
Cdn Pacific	28⅛	27⅝	27⅞	27¾
Cominco	31½	30¾	31½	30⅞
Consumers Gas	20¼	20⅛	20¼	20¼
Dofasco	21¼	20⅞	21¼	21
Domtar Ind B	9¼	8¾	9¼	8¾
Du Pont Cda A	28⅛	27¾	27¾	27¾
Echo Bay Min	18¼	18	18	18¼
Empire Co. A	12¼	11⅞	11⅞	12⅛
Falconbridge	29⅛	28¾	28⅞	28¾
Fletcher Chall A	18⅜	18⅜	18⅜	18
Franco Nevada	79¼	78¾	78¾	77
Guardian Cap A	9⅛	9⅛	9⅛	9⅛
Hemlo Gold	18½	18¼	18⅜	18½
Horsham	19⅜	19⅜	19⅜	19⅜
Imperial Oil	50⅜	49⅞	50⅜	50
Inco	48⅜	47	48¼	46⅞
IPL Energy	32⅞	32¾	32⅞	32⅞
Laidlaw A	14½	14¼	14½	14¼
Laidlaw B	14¼	14⅛	14¼	14¼
Loewen Group	39⅜	39	39⅜	39¾
Ldn Insur Gp	27⅞	27¼	27¾	28
Macmill Bld	17⅞	17½	17⅞	17⅞
Magna Intl A	60½	59¾	59¾	59⅞
Maple Leaf Fds	7⅛	7⅛	7⅛	7
Moore	26⅜	25⅞	26¼	26
Newbridge Net	67⅜	65⅜	65¾	67⅜
Noranda Inc	28⅜	28¼	28¾	28¼
Noranda Forest	9	8¾	9	8¾
Norcen Energy	20⅜	20⅛	20¼	20¼
Nthern Telecom	67⅞	67	67½	67½
Nova	12½	12¼	12⅜	12⅜
Onex	14¼	14½	14½	14½
Placer Dome	38⅝	37⅞	38¼	38½
Potash Sask	100	92	94	97¼
Provigo	7¼	7⅛	7¼	8
Quebecor Print	24⅜	24⅜	24⅜	24⅜
Renaissance	34⅜	34½	34⅜	34⅜
Rio Algom	25¼	25	25¼	25¼
Seagram Co	46⅜	44⅝	45¼	45⅜
Stone Consold	17¾	16⅞	17½	17
Talisman Eny	30⅜	29¾	30⅜	29⅞
Teleglobe	20¼	20	20¼	20⅜
Telus	16½	16⅜	16⅜	16⅜
Thomson	20⅜	20	20⅜	20
TorDom Bank	23⅞	23⅝	23¾	23⅞
Transalta	14¼	14½	14¼	14¼
TransCda Pipe	19⅜	19¼	19⅜	19¼
Utd Dominion	33¼	32¾	32¾	33
Westburn	9⅜	9⅛	9⅜	9⅜
Westcoast Eny	21½	21	21	21¾
Weston	47¼	46½	47	46½

TSE Industrials index: 4975.44
Previous: 4948.76

Vienna

	High	Low	Close	Prev.
Aust Airlines	1795	1795	1795	1830
Brau-Un Goess	581	576	576	586
Bund Vers Pfd	446	446	446	442
Creditanst PC	1520	1520	1490	1490
EA-Generali	3300	3269	3269	3255
EVN	1339	1332	1332	1338
Interunfall	1565	1565	1565	1560
Lenzing	839	838	839	840
Leykam	373	371	371	373
Mayr-Melnhof	518	515	517	518
OEMV	938	929	929	938
Oest Brau-Bet	527	522	522	528
Oest Elektriz	704	700	701	698
VA Tech	1324	1318	1320	1317
Wienerberger	2145	2128	2128	2140

ATX index: 1039.85
Previous: 1043.85

Wellington

	High	Low	Close	Prev.
Air N Zeald B	3.40	3.35	3.38	3.39
Brierly Invt	1.26	1.24	1.25	1.25
Carter Holt ord	3.03	3.00	3.02	3.00
Fernz	4.30	4.20	4.25	4.25
Fisher Paykel	4.45	4.45	4.45	4.38
Fletcher Chall	3.13	3.08	3.12	3.06
Fletcher For	1.96	1.94	1.94	1.93
Goodman Fdler	1.52	1.49	1.50	1.52
Indep News	5.10	5.10	5.10	5.10
Lion Nathan	3.42	3.40	3.42	3.41
Nat Gas note	1.99	1.97	1.97	1.99
NZ Refining	23.50	23.50	23.50	23.00
Telecom NZ	6.64	6.60	6.64	6.60
Trust Bk NZ	2.07	2.06	2.07	2.05
Wilson Horton	9.35	9.30	9.35	9.30

NZSE-40 index: 2090.37
Previous: 2081.12

Zurich

	High	Low	Close	Prev.
Adia B	235	232	236	235
Alusuisse R	1014	1000	1012	988
Ares-Serono B	925	915	915	925
Baer Hdg B	1280	1220	1275	1230
Baloise Hdg R	2570	2460	2570	2450
BBC B	1439	1431	1438	1432
BK Vision	1600	1587	1600	1594
Bobst B	1885	1885	1885	1870
Ciba Geigy R	1415	1407	1407	1413
CS Holdings R	112	111.25	111.75	110.50
Elektrowatt B	425	417	425	417
Fischer B	1490	1470	1480	1485
HIRI PC	957	955	955	955
Holderbank B	875	856	875	850
Merkur Hdg R	255	253	253	257
Nestle R	1350	1337	1347	1324
Oerlikon R	130.50	126	126	129
Pargesa Hld B	1445	1430	1430	1430
PharmVisn B	6210	6170	6210	6170
Pirelli B	148	147	147	147
Roche Hdg PC	9420	9365	9400	9325
Sandoz R	1339	1330	1330	1336
SBC B	461	456	458	462
Schindler B	1248	1227	1247	1240
SGS B	2470	2430	2455	2410
SMH B	713	706	710	713
Sulzer R	774	765	774	763
Swiss Reins R	1251	1227	1251	1225
Swissair R	1107	1100	1106	1105
UBS B	1312	1303	1307	1314
Winterthur R	795	787	795	782
Zurich Assur R	348	342	346	345

SPI index: 2282.50
Previous: 2271.82

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هكذا من الاصل

EUROPE

Agricultural Division Helps Minorco Post 51% Profit Rise

Compiled by Our Staff From Dispatches

LONDON — Minorco said Thursday its net profit rose 51 percent last year, led by a 160 percent jump in earnings at its agricultural chemicals division, Terra Industries Co.

The Luxembourg-based metals and mining company, controlled by the Oppenheimer family of South Africa, said its net profit rose to $365 million last year from $241.2 million in 1994.

The company, which took a charge of $175.5 million in 1994, said there were no one-time items in its results for last year.

Minorco plans to pay a dividend of 63 cents a share, up 11 percent.

Revenue rose 24 percent, to $4.2 billion, led by higher prices for Minorco's paper, packaging, fertilizer and gasoline-additive products and helped by a full year of sales at its Agricultural Minerals & Chemicals Inc. unit acquired in October 1994.

Terra Industries had record earnings of $387 million, up from $149 million, helped mainly by a $159 million contribution from Agricultural Minerals. Both Terra's and Agricultural Minerals' fertilizer businesses benefited from higher prices for nitrogen fertilizer and low raw-material costs.

Minorco's gold-mining operations swung to a profit of $35 million after a reorganization in 1994. Earnings on base-metal operations surged to $22 million from $4 million, as copper prices rose 27 percent, nickel prices gained 30 percent jump and zinc prices moved up 4 percent. Earnings in the paper and packaging division rose to $60 million from $37 million, also helped out by higher prices. But earnings from industrial materials fell to $95 million from $106 million.

Anglo American Corp. owns 45.8 percent of Minorco, De Beers owns 22.6 percent of its shares, and Anglo-American Gold Investment Co. holds a 2.7 percent stake. Central Holdings Ltd. holds 7 percent.

(Bloomberg, Knight-Ridder)

Cost-Cutting Bolsters Net at BNP

Bloomberg Business News

PARIS — Banque Nationale de Paris SA said Thursday its 1995 net profit rose 7.7 percent as cost-cutting and lower provisions for risky loans offset a fall in income from securities trading.

The company reported net profit of 1.78 billion francs ($353.1 million), compared with 1.66 billion francs in 1994.

"Our earnings have risen less than we had expected," said Michel Pebereau, the bank's chairman. "But this was a year in which a significant number of banks were in the red, and BNP kept its head above water."

BNP's shares rose 6.30 francs, to 193.40.

Mr. Pebereau said the bank's performance was sound, considering the slack demand for credit in France and the poor showing of Union des Assurances de Paris, in which BNP owns a 17.5 percent stake. UAP, which in turn owns 14.3 percent of BNP, had a 1995 loss of 2 billion francs. UAP contributed a loss of 480 million francs to BNP's 1995 accounts, more than wiping out a profit of about 110 million francs in 1994, Mr. Pebereau said.

Separately, Assurances Générales de France SA, France's third-largest insurer, said its 1995 nét profit rose 23 percent, to 1.08 billion francs.

Prague Grants Stake In GSM Phone Firm

Compiled by Our Staff From Dispatches

PRAGUE — A group led by Deutsche Telekom MobilNet GmbH and STET SpA of Italy won a 20-year license for a 49 percent stake in a new Czech mobile-phone company, the Ministry of Economy said Thursday.

The group, TMobil BV, includes DeTeMobil, Società Finanziaria Telefonica — or STET — and a group of Czech companies. Ceske Radiokomunikace AS will own the remaining stake in the venture. The GSM, or global system for mobile telecommunications, service is scheduled to begin in September.

"This is an important milestone in continuing investment in Central and Eastern Europe," said Lothar Hunsel, chief executive officer of DeTeMobil, which also is involved in mobile-phone ventures in Ukraine, Russia and Poland.

Six consortiums bid for the license, but Economics Minister Karel Dyba said DeTeMobil's group had won because of its pledges of low tariffs, a quick *start-up and investment in the venture.*

He also said the issuance of the license had completed "the majority of the telecommunication-policy goals" of the Czech government.

The joint venture is one of two new 20-year GSM licenses in the Czech Republic. The other license was granted to Eurotel, a venture of Bell Atlantic Corp., U S West Media Group and the Czech phone company SPT Telecom AS.

GSM is a pan-European system that allows users of cellular phones to make and receive calls even when they are away from their home countries. Eurotel currently operates the only cellular-phone service in the Czech Republic, one using the older analog system.

TMobil, owned 85 percent by DeTeMobil and 12 percent by STET, pledged $202.1 million initially for the 49 percent stake in the new company plus start-up capital. STET was an unsuccessful bidder last year when Prague sold a 27 percent stake in SPT Telecom AS.

Analysts estimate it will cost $300 million to $500 million to set up a GSM network in the Czech Republic.

(Bloomberg, AFX)

Investor's Europe

Exchange	Index	Thursday Close	Prev. Close	% Change
Amsterdam	EOE	520.55	514.34	+1.21
Brussels	Stock Exchange	8,748.59	8,741.47	+0.08
Frankfurt	DAX	2,426.49	2,426.38	+0.00
Copenhagen	Stock Market	381.15	381.75	-0.16
Helsinki	HEX General	1,866.92	1,852.92	+0.76
Oslo	OBX	431.35	429.94	+0.33
London	FTSE 100	3,681.80	3,640.30	+1.14
Madrid	Stock Exchange	328.49	327.50	+0.30
Milan	MIBTEL	9,429.00	9,417.00	+0.13
Paris	CAC 40	1,962.41	1,944.30	+0.93
Stockholm	SX 16	2,040.92	2,022.47	+0.91
Vienna	ATX	1,039.05	1,043.05	-0.38
Zurich	SPI	2,282.98	2,271.62	+0.50

Source: Telekurs — International Herald Tribune

Very briefly:

- **Royal Nedlloyd NV,** facing continuing losses in its shipping activities, agreed to sell its Neddrill oil-exploration unit to Noble Drilling Corp. of the United States for $348 million.
- **Eurotunnel SA** said its creditor banks had not exercised an option, expiring Thursday, to force the unprofitable Channel-tunnel operator into administration; the option was part of an agreement reached in September, when Eurotunnel suspended interest payments on £8 billion ($12.1 billion) of junior debt *while seeking to refinance loans from its 225 banks.*
- **Siemens AG's** communications division said new orders rose 20 percent from a year earlier, to 9.3 billion Deutsche marks ($6.32 billion), in the five months through February, while sales increased 10 percent, to 7.7 billion DM.
- **Metro AG** said sales of a newly formed conglomerate would top 76 billion DM by 1998, putting that combination of several Metro units among the world's top five retailers.
- **Huarte SA** shares were suspended from trading in Madrid amid expectations that a bailout plan to save the Spanish builder from receivership was about to collapse, Spain's National Stock Exchange Commission said.
- **AssiDomaen AB's** 1995 pretax profit more than doubled, to 4.34 billion Swedish kronor ($640 million) from 2.07 billion kronor a year earlier, as global demand for paper pulled prices and sales volume higher.
- **Docks de France SA's** net profit rose 10 percent in 1995, to 563 million francs ($111.6 million), on the strength of new store openings by the supermarket operator.
- **Mediaset SpA's** 1995 net income nearly quadrupled, to 446 billion lire ($285 million), on cost-cutting, lower debt and higher advertising revenue at the television broadcaster.
- **Beiersdorf AG's** net profit increased 9.3 percent, to 227.1 million DM, in 1995 as all three of the cosmetics and medical-products manufacturer's divisions posted gains.

Reuters, Bloomberg, AFX

BTR, as Earnings Rise, Outlines Global Strategy

Compiled by Our Staff From Dispatches

LONDON — BTR PLC said Thursday that 1995 pretax profit rose a higher-than-expected 6 percent and announced details of a strategy to refocus its business on units with a global reach.

The diversified industrial company said profit reached a record £1.5 billion ($2.29 billion), operating profit rose 6.9 percent, to £1.58 billion, and sales were up 3.5 percent, to £9.78 billion.

BTR's shares rose 14 pence, or 4.4 percent, to close at 335.

Ian Strachan, BTR's chief executive officer since January, told analysts that the company would not split itself into separate companies as its rival, Hanson PLC, plans to do.

Instead, BTR plans to bolster its major industrial and manufacturing operations and conduct a program of asset sales and acquisitions to focus on emerging markets.

Subsidiaries that do not have a global market share of sufficient size, or are not useful to the rest of the company, would be sold, Mr. Strachan said.

(Bloomberg, Reuters)

■ Reckitt's Shares Surge

Reckitt & Colman PLC shares surged 35 pence, to 655, as benefits from acquiring the L&F consumer brands began to flow and the company said a reorganization of the L&F unit was nearly complete, Bloomberg Business News reported. The company said profit rose to £285.1 million before one-time items related to reorganizing L&F from £270.3 million in 1994.

Citing Paper Costs, 2 British Tabloids Raise Cover Prices

Compiled by Our Staff From Dispatches

LONDON — Britain's two top-selling newspapers, the Sun and the Daily Mirror, will raise their cover prices Monday, their publishers said.

The price of the Sun, the largest-selling paper, will rise 2 pence, to 27 pence (41 cents), and the Daily Mirror's price will go up 2 pence, to 30 pence.

"The rise is due to a combination of factors, including the higher cost of newsprint," said a spokesman for News International PLC, which publishes the Sun. He added that the Saturday edition of the Sun would remain at 27 pence. He said British newsprint prices had risen 70 percent in the past year.

The chief executive of Mirror Group Newspapers PLC, David Montgomery, also cited newsprint costs as a reason for the Mirror's price increase. Newsprint prices rose strongly for much of last year, but the price of wood pulp used in making such products as paper and tissue has dropped 40 percent since October 1995.

(Bloomberg, Reuters, AFX)

GM and Daewoo Steer Investment to Poland

Compiled by Our Staff From Dispatches

WARSAW — The government and General Motors Corp. signed a memorandum of understanding Thursday on the construction of an assembly plant valued at 500 million Deutsche marks ($340 million) in southern Poland, the trade and industry minister, Klemens Scierski, said.

Details of the accord with GM's German unit Adam Opel AG will be hammered out within six weeks, the minister said.

The plant is planned for the Silesia region in southwestern Poland, an area threatened with mass layoffs in its coal industry.

Meanwhile, Daewoo Corp. signed an agreement to invest $1.12 billion over the next seven years in Warsaw's Passenger Car Factory. The agreement gives the South Korean carmaker 70 percent of the factory, which is known by its Polish initials, FSO.

The new company will be called Daewoo-FSO Motor Ltd., but the Polish government will retain veto power on strategic decisions.

The factory will continue to produce 100,000 Polish-designed Polonez cars a year and will start making as many as 30,000 Daewoo Tico and Espero cars a year.

Daewoo said it would immediately transfer $20 million of capital to the plant in Warsaw and was seeking Polish government permission to move production of its Nexia cars to Warsaw from the eastern city of Lublin.

(Reuters, AP, AFX, AFP)

AMEX

Thursday's 4 p.m. Close
The top 300 most-active shares, up to the closing on Wall Street.
The Associated Press

Stock	Sales	High	Low	Latest	Chge
[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]

U.S. STOCK MARKET DIARY

Indexes

Dow Jones

	Open	High	Low	Last	Chg.
Indus	5582.44	5629.77	5558.72	5618.21	+49.49
Trans	2128.22	2164.57	2113.78	2161.44	+43.57
Util	212.34	213.81	211.85	213.60	+1.34
Comp	1806.32	1825.62	1800.71	1823.17	+22.46

Standard & Poors

	High	Low	Close	Chg.
Industrials	765.24	758.72	760.82	+2.10
Transp.	522.77	509.14	520.30	+9.85
Utilities	187.04	185.27	185.71	—0.90
Finance	65.09	64.01	64.78	+0.77
SP 500	644.17	638.55	640.87	+2.32
SP 100	622.47	616.13	619.37	+3.24

NYSE

	High	Low	Last	Chg.
Composite	344.91	341.86	343.48	+1.54
Industrials	437.58	435.55	437.38	+1.83
Transp.	328.32	321.62	327.83	+6.73
Utility	238.88	238.19	238.65	—0.05
Finance	286.10	282.53	285.00	+2.47

Nasdaq

	High	Low	Last	Chg.
Composite	1096.14	1091.38	1092.41	+3.77
Industrials	1008.99	1006.01	1008.08	+6.73
Banks	1034.20	1031.78	1033.83	+1.84
Insurance	1316.94	1310.84	1310.86	+3.40
Finance	1262.80	1257.12	1262.80	+7.46
Transp.	873.14	868.19	872.05	+5.54

AMEX

High	Low	Last	Chg.
563.36	560.73	561.78	+1.01

Dow Jones Bond

	Close	Chg.
20 Bonds	103.56	—0.15
10 Utilities	99.78	—0.06
10 Industrials	107.35	—0.23

Most Actives

NYSE

	Vol.	High	Low	Last	Chg.
PhilMr	153261	96¼	90	92½	—5½
K mart	110913	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]
OfficDpt	99729	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]
WalMart	76490	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]
MicronT s	66497	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]
Merck	53416	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]
JRiver	44880	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]
OccPet	42101	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]
RJRNab s	40065	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]
Disney	39457	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]
CapcoAut	38639	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]
FedNM	38614	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]
Unisys	38200	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]
FordM	37546	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]
GlobM	34997	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]

Nasdaq

	Vol.	High	Low	Last	Chg.
3Com s	72575	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	—3½
Intel s	71644	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]
Cisco s	68307	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]
ApldMat s	63688	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]
Oracle	53825	50	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]
HrtLabs	51105	[illegible]	1	[illegible]	[illegible]
DellCpt s	48970	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]
SunMic s	48012	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]
NbleDr	47222	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]
Staples s	39114	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]
Microsoft	37708	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]
ReadRt	36350	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]
Starbcks s	33610	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	+1
MCI	32651	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]
Isocor n	30700	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]

AMEX

	Vol.	High	Low	Last	Chg.
ViacB	21749	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]
US Alc	12821	[illegible]	[illegible]	3	[illegible]
Medeva	10108	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]
ElPasoE n	9911	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]
Amdhl	9452	[illegible]	9	[illegible]	[illegible]
Ampex n	9094	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]
Hasbro	7864	[illegible]	35	[illegible]	[illegible]
IvaxCp	7433	[illegible]	27	[illegible]	[illegible]
Atari	7311	[illegible]	[illegible]	4	[illegible]
GldStarR	7083	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]

Trading Activity

NYSE

	Close	Prev.
Advanced	1452	1536
Declined	931	884
Unchanged	731	706
Total issues	3114	3126
New Highs	122	84
New Lows	29	22

Nasdaq

	Close	Prev. Close
Advanced	1832	2106
Declined	1239	1539
Unchanged	2298	1719
Total issues	5369	5364
New Highs	102	116
New Lows	15	56

AMEX

	Close	Prev.
Advanced	308	296
Declined	234	238
Unchanged	189	192
Total issues	731	726
New Highs	26	18
New Lows	3	4

Market Sales

	Today Close	Prev. cons.
NYSE	492.63	501.956
Amex	23.47	23.988
Nasdaq	465.15	482.343

in millions.

Dividends

Company	Per	Amt	Rec	Pay
IRREGULAR				
Cadbury Schw	b	.8436	3-26	6-3
Cohen Steer RS	-	.47	3-22	3-25
Czech Republic	-	.055	3-29	4-4
Fletch Chall ADS	b	.7309	3-22	4-2
FletchChall Forest	b	.258	3-22	4-2
Instrumentarium	b	.294	4-2	4-17
Resource Mtg Cap	-	.51	3-29	4-30
Salomon Bros Fd	-	.57	4-4	4-15
Salomon Bros In A	-	.64	3-14	3-28
Salomon Bros In B	c	.60	3-14	3-28
Salomon Bros InO	-	.64	3-14	3-28
INCREASED				
ICN Pharm	Q	.077	3-28	4-10
Metropolitan Rlty	Q	.11	3-25	3-29
Pengrowth Gas	M	.09	3-27	4-15
Plenum Publish	Q	.30	3-27	4-10
Scientific Tech	Q	.04	3-22	4-1
Washington Post	Q	.115	4-5	5-10
REDUCED				
Tri-Continental	Q	.17	3-22	4-1
INITIAL				
Credicorp Ltd		.55	3-29	4-12
REGULAR				
Atlantic energy	Q	.385	3-25	4-15
Coeur d Alene	A	.15	4-8	4-19
Cohen Steer Rl	Q	.17	3-29	4-12
Colgate Palmolive	Q	.47	4-25	5-15
Glatfelter,PH.	Q	.175	4-12	5-1
Household Intl	Q	.34	3-29	4-15
Idaho Power	Q	.465	4-25	5-20
JDN Realty	Q	.455	3-31	4-16
Lincoln Ntl Corp	Q	.46	4-10	5-1
Mercantile Bkshrs	Q	.23	3-22	3-29
Morgan,JP A	-	1.25	3-25	3-31
Natl HealthCare	Q	.52	3-29	5-15
Old Second Bncp	Q	.20	3-22	4-1
Taubman Centers	Q	.22	3-29	4-19
Toro Co	Q	.12	3-27	4-12
Transp Mar Mex L	b	.175	3-22	3-29
Vestaur Secur	Q	.27	3-29	4-18

b: approx amount.
c: also payable on class C.

STOCK SPLIT
St John Knits 2 for 1 split.

STOCK
Credicorp Ltd .0175% for each share held.

REVERSE STOCK SPLIT
Furrs Bishops 1 for 15 reverse split.
Norfolk Forest 1 for 4 reverse split.

b: approx amount per ADR.
a-annual; g-payable in Canadian funds; m-monthly; q-quarterly; s-semi-annual

Stock Tables Explained

Sales figures are unofficial. Yearly highs and lows reflect the previous 52 weeks plus the current week, but not the latest trading day. Where a split or stock dividend amounting to 25 percent or more has been paid, the years high-low range and dividend are shown for the new stocks only. Unless otherwise noted, rates of dividends are annual disbursements based on the latest declaration.

a - dividend also extra (s). b - annual rate of dividend plus stock dividend. c - liquidating dividend. cld - called. d - new yearly low. e - dividend declared or paid in preceding 12 months. g - dividend in Canadian funds, subject to 15% non-residence tax. i - dividend declared after split-up or stock dividend. j - dividend paid this year, omitted, deferred, or no action taken at latest dividend meeting. k - dividend declared or paid this year, an accumulative issue with dividends in arrears. n - new issue in the past 52 weeks. The high-low range begins with the start of trading. nd - next day delivery. P/E - price-earnings ratio. r - dividend declared or paid in preceding 12 months, plus stock dividend. s - stock split. Dividend begins with date of split. sls - sales. t - dividend paid in stock in preceding 12 months, estimated cash value on ex-dividend or ex-distribution date. u - new yearly high. v - trading halted. vi - in bankruptcy or receivership or being reorganized under the Bankruptcy Act, or securities assumed by such companies. wd - when distributed. wi - when issued/ ww - with warrants. x - ex-dividend or ex-rights. xdis - ex-distribution. xw - without warrants. y- ex-dividend and sales in full. yld - yield. z - sales in full.

INTERNATIONAL FUTURES

March 14, 1996

	High	Low	Close	Chge	Opint
Grains					
CORN (CBOT) 5,000 bu minimum- dollars per bushel					
Mar 96	4.02	3.96	3.97¾	+0.02¾	8,546
May 96	3.94½	3.89¼	3.90¼	+0.01	897
Jul 96	3.84	3.79	3.79½		124,631
Sep 96	3.32½	3.30	3.20½	+0.01	36,890
Dec 96	3.19	3.16	3.17½	+0.01¼	89,231
Est. sales N.A. Wed's. sales 65,297					
Wed's open int 471,863 off 479					
SOYBEAN MEAL (CBOT) 100 tons- dollars per ton					
Mar 96	230.10	227.50	228.00		2,086
May 96	234.40	231.00	231.10	—1.20	38,157
Jul 96	237.60	233.80	234.00	—1.30	34,404
Aug 96	237.60	234.30	234.70	—0.80	5,079
Sep 96	236.50	234.00	234.00	—0.50	3,449
Oct 96	233.40	231.50	231.50	—0.30	2,967
Est. sales N.A. Wed's. sales 13,158					
Wed's open int 85,337 up 128					
SOYBEAN OIL (CBOT) 60,000 lbs- dollars per 100 lbs.					
Mar 96	24.28	24.00	24.10	+0.24	2,373
May 96	24.58	24.26	24.43	+0.25	37,583
Jul 96	24.92	24.72	24.88	+0.25	26,759
Aug 96	25.00	24.90	24.96	+0.26	7,077
Sep 96	25.18	25.08	25.15	+0.27	4,482
Oct 96	25.35	25.22	25.26	+0.25	2,822
Est. sales N.A. Wed's. sales 15,451					
Wed's open int 89,830 off 583					
SOYBEANS (CBOT) 5,000 bu minimum- dollars per bushel					
Mar 96	7.26¾	7.20	7.20½	—0.00¾	1,966
May 96	7.37	7.28½	7.29½	—0.08¾	70,456
Jul 96	7.44½	7.36	7.37	—0.00¾	50,186
Aug 96	7.44½	7.36½	7.37¼	—0.00¾	6,449
Sep 96	7.36½	7.29½	7.29½	+0.01¼	3,569
Est. sales N.A. Wed's. sales 35,403					
Wed's open int 193,279 off 1192					
WHEAT (CBOT) 5,000 bu minimum- dollars per bushel					
Mar 96	5.22	5.06	5.07	—0.08½	4,041
May 96	4.98½	4.80	4.80½	—0.04	26,907
Jul 96	4.53	4.46	4.48½	+0.01	46,594
Sep 96	4.56½	4.52	4.52½	+0.00¾	8,709
Est. sales N.A. Wed's. sales 23,330					
Wed's open int 93,340 off 717					
Livestock					
CATTLE (CMER) 40,000 lbs.- cents per lb.					
Apr 96	64.52	63.95	64.40	+0.73	26,977
Jun 96	64.45	63.85	64.05	—0.25	27,631
Aug 96	63.42	62.85	62.90	—0.47	14,324
Oct 96	63.95	63.52	63.72	—0.20	18,416
Dec 96	62.70	62.45	62.52	—0.18	6,096
Feb 97	62.60	62.40	62.42	+0.02	3,003
Est. sales 20,450 Wed's. sales 22,481					
Wed's open int 98,823 up 645					
FEEDER CATTLE (CMER) 50,000 lbs.- cents per lb.					
Mar 96	57.20	56.95	57.05	—0.17	4,084
Apr 96	57.85	57.45	57.47	—0.38	3,464
May 96	58.42	57.98	58.02	—0.40	6,281
Aug 96	59.10	58.45	58.47	—0.63	5,879
Sep 96	59.12	58.60	58.70	—0.42	1,149
Oct 96	59.38	58.80	58.85	—0.35	1,444
Est. sales 3,018 Wed's. sales 5,271					
Wed's open int 23,154 off 554					
HOGS-Live(2/97 Lean) (CMER) 40,000 lbs.- cents per lb.					
Apr 96	49.30	48.38	48.60	—0.60	11,592
Jun 96	53.97	52.82	52.87	—1.00	13,946
Jul 96	50.97	50.15	50.35	—0.52	3,394
Aug 96	48.75	48.25	48.35	—0.40	4,255
Oct 96	45.35	44.95	45.05	—0.12	2,894
Dec 96	46.60	46.12	46.12	—0.23	1,632
Est. sales 7,713 Wed's. sales 8,575					
Wed's open int 38,512 up 775					
PORK BELLIES (CMER) 40,000 lbs.- cents per lb.					
Mar 96	69.90	68.50	68.50	—2.00	661
May 96	69.20	67.42	67.42	—2.00	6,695
Jul 96	65.87	64.10	64.10	—2.00	2,459
Aug 96	62.30	60.20	60.20	—2.00	709
Feb 97	62.65	60.82	60.82	—1.88	57
Mar 97			60.70	—1.80	6
Est. sales 2,061 Wed's. sales 3,511					
Wed's open int 10,587 off 90					
Food					
COCOA (NCSE) 10 metric tons- $ per ton					
Mar 96	1205	1196	1205	+4	94
May 96	1225	1205	1220	+9	37,403
Jul 96	1248	1231	1243	+6	21,556
Sep 96	1273	1256	1268	+8	12,071
Dec 96	1309	1298	1307	+12	13,535
Est. sales 8,793 Wed's. sales 9,608					
Wed's open int 98,654 off 888					
COFFEE C (NCSE) 37,500 lbs.- cents per lb.					
Mar 96	122.50	120.00	121.70	+2.85	652
May 96	118.75	116.55	117.75	+3.05	15,893
Jul 96	117.25	115.25	116.45	+3.00	5,073
Sep 96	116.00	114.50	115.50	+2.80	3,437
Est. sales 6,333 Wed's. sales 8,366					
Wed's open int 27,129 up 307					
SUGAR-WORLD 11 (NCSE) 112,000 lbs.- cents per lb.					
May 96	12.32	12.14	12.33	+0.07	45,988
Jul 96	11.04	10.95	10.98	—0.02	39,811
Oct 96	10.65	10.59	10.62		27,905
Mar 97	10.36	10.30	10.34	+0.02	14,967
Est. sales 15,574 Wed's. sales 14,895					
Wed's open int 154,784 up 997					

	High	Low	Close	Chge	Opint
ORANGE JUICE (NCTN) 15,000 lbs.- cents per lb.					
May 96	136.00	133.00	135.40	+2.15	16,712
Jul 96	134.45	132.25	134.85	+1.90	3,818
Sep 96	131.75	130.50	131.75	+1.00	2,125
Nov 96	128.45	127.00	128.45	+0.70	816
Est. sales N.A. Wed's. sales 1,447					
Wed's open int 26,391 up 41					
Metals					
GOLD (NCMX) 100 troy oz.- dollars per troy oz.					
Mar 96			395.70	—1.10	2
Apr 96	398.00	396.20	396.50	—1.20	80,807
May 96			397.80	—1.20	12
Jun 96	401.10	399.20	399.50	—1.20	49,618
Aug 96	403.20	401.90	402.00	—1.20	13,253
Oct 96			404.50	—1.20	4,687
Dec 96	408.30	406.60	407.10	—1.20	14,996
Feb 97	410.10	409.90	409.70	—1.20	5,041
Est. sales N.A. Wed's. sales 20,703					
Wed's open int 208,851 up 615					
HI GRADE COPPER (NCMX) 25,000 lbs.- cents per lb.					
Mar 96	119.55	117.80	118.35	—1.75	3,908
Apr 96	118.70	117.60	117.70	—1.95	2,170
May 96	118.80	116.70	117.20	—1.65	20,455
Jun 96	115.60	115.60	115.70	—1.15	860
Jul 96	115.70	114.25	114.70	—0.80	4,944
Aug 96			113.75	—0.60	439
Sep 96	113.20	112.50	112.75	—0.45	2,837
Oct 96			111.85	—0.30	434
Nov 96			111.10	—0.15	316
Est. sales N.A. Wed's. sales 6,574					
Wed's open int 43,380 off 235					
SILVER (NCMX) 5,000 troy oz.- cents per troy oz.					
Mar 96	559.0	554.0	555.7	—3.6	444
Apr 96			557.4	—3.6	2
May 96	563.5	557.0	559.7	—3.5	53,759
Jul 96	567.0	561.0	563.8	—4.2	13,150
Sep 96	571.0	565.0	568.0	—4.9	10,938
Dec 96	578.0	573.0	574.8	—5.4	7,544
Jan 97			577.7	—5.6	3
Mar 97			581.8	—5.7	2,753
Est. sales N.A. Wed's. sales 22,068					
Wed's open int 91,832 up 2329					
PLATINUM (NMER) 50 troy oz.- dollars per troy oz.					
Apr 96	416.70	412.50	413.20	—3.10	11,637
Jul 96	418.00	415.00	416.10	—3.20	7,544
Oct 96	419.50	419.50	419.50	—2.40	1,891
Jan 97			421.40	—3.00	762
Apr 97			423.70	—3.00	202
Est. sales N.A. Wed's. sales 2,967					
Wed's open int 22,036 up 63					

LONDON METALS (LME)
Dollars per metric ton

	Close		Previous	
Aluminum (High Grade)				
Spot	1608½	1609½	1614½	1615½
Forward	1638.00	1639.00	1644.00	1645.00
Copper Cathodes (High Grade)				
Spot	2553½	2555½	2593.00	2594.00
Forward	2543.00	2544.00	2571.00	2572.00
Lead				
Spot	806.00	808.00	811½	813½
Forward	787.00	788.00	791.00	791½
Nickel				
Spot	7980.00	7990.00	8058.00	8060.00
Forward	8080.00	8090.00	8155.00	8160.00
Tin				
Spot	6060.00	6070.00	6060.00	6070.00
Forward	6095.00	6105.00	6100.00	6105.00
Zinc (Special High Grade)				
Spot	1072.00	1073.00	1097½	1098½
Forward	1093.00	1094.00	1117.00	1118.00

	High	Low	Close	Chge	Opint
Financial					
US T. BILLS (CMER) $1 million- pts of 100 pct.					
Mar 96	95.10	95.09	95.11	+0.02	3,270
Jun 96	95.12	95.08	95.09	+0.02	8,487
Sep 96	94.98	94.95	94.95	+0.03	2,425
Dec 96			94.73	+0.01	77
Est. sales N.A. Wed's. sales 1,425					
Wed's open int 14,659 off 390					
5 YR. TREASURY (CBOT) $100,000 prin- pts & 32nds of 100 pct					
Mar 96	107-16	107-11	107-115	- 01	20,435
Jun 96	107-10	106-285	107-00		175,658
Sep 96			106-265		7,848
Est. sales 35,000 Wed's. sales 55,001					
Wed's open int 203,941 off 983					
10 YR. TREASURY (CBOT) $100,000 prin- pts & 32nds of 100 pct					
Mar 96	109-30	109-18	109-22		28,397
Jun 96	109-10	108-25	108-31		258,714
Sep 96	108-29	108-22	108-24		12,439
Est. sales 69,433 Wed's. sales 98,948					
Wed's open int 291,774 up 2759					
US TREASURY BONDS (CBOT) (8 pct-$100,000-pts & 32nds of 100 pct)					
Mar 96	112-17	111-28	112-01	— 02	47,629
Jun 96	112-02	111-10	111-16	— 02	342,743
Sep 96	111-14	110-26	110-31	— 02	15,628
Dec 96	110-26	110-12	110-14	— 01	2,761
Est. sales 275,000 Wed's. sales 351,891					
Wed's open int 409,713 off 4636					
LONG GILT (LIFFE) £50,000 - pts & 32nds of 100 pct					
Mar96	106-00	105-10	106-00	+ 0-13	17,266
Jun96	105-08	104-11	105-03	+ 0-12	119,127
Sep96	N.T.	N.T.	103-30	+ 0-10	79
Est. sales: 50,476. Prev. sales: 86,767					
Prev. open int.: 136,482 off 5,637					
GERMAN GOVERNMENT BUND (LIFFE) DM250,000 - pts of 100 pct					
Jun96	95.67	95.19	95.44	+ 0.38	227,428
Sep96	94.75	94.35	94.79	+ 0.37	3,444
Est. sales: 136,217 Prev. sales: 180,921					
Prev. open int.: 231,094 up 4					

	High	Low	Close	Chge	Opint
10-YEAR FRENCH GOV. BONDS (MATIF)					
Mar 96	120.94	120.66	120.90	+ 0.10	
Jun 96	120.58	120.30	120.52	— 0.02	
Sep 96	119.34	119.14	119.30	— 0.04	
Dec 97	118.56	118.14	118.42	— 0.14	
Est. volume:223,625. Open int.:173,430					
ITALIAN GOVERNMENT BOND (LIFFE) ITL 200 million - pts of 100 pct					
Jun96	108.99	107.94	108.81	+ 0.57	51,320
Sep96	N.T.	N.T.	108.31	+ 0.57	0
Est. sales: 41,576. Prev. sales: 46,514					
Prev. open int.: 51,320 up 1,415					
EURODOLLARS (CMER) $1 million-pts of 100 pct.					
Mar 96	94.610	94.600	94.610		272,836
Apr 96	94.630	94.600	94.630	+10	10,501
May 96	94.640	94.620	94.630	+10	2,853
Jun 96	94.630	94.570	94.590	+10	393,451
Sep 96	94.520	94.450	94.480	+20	328,408
Dec 96	94.280	94.220	94.240	+10	312,708
Mar 97	94.150	94.070	94.100	+20	215,540
Jun 97	94.070	93.960	93.990	+30	186,764
Est. sales N.A. Wed's. sales 448,944					
Wed's open int 2,387,665 off 12704					
BRITISH POUND (CMER) 62,500 pounds, $ per pound					
Mar 96	1.5260	1.5220	1.5252	+18	29,112
Jun 96	1.5232	1.5198	1.5226	+12	31,483
Sep 96	1.5200	1.5180	1.5206	+14	24
Dec 96			1.5186	+20	30
Est. sales N.A. Wed's. sales 8,292					
Wed's open int 60,649 off 932					
CANADIAN DOLLAR (CMER) 100,000 dollars, $ per Cdn. dlr					
Mar 96	.7318	.7298	.7312	+2	13,886
Jun 96	.7320	.7294	.7313	+3	20,263
Sep 96	.7315	.7300	.7312	+3	1,082
Dec 96	.7311	.7300	.7307	+3	1,485
Est. sales N.A. Wed's. sales 6,246					
Wed's open int 36,907 off 766					
GERMAN MARK (CMER) 125,000 marks, $ per mark					
Mar 96	.6806	.6783	.6794	—4	34,233
Jun 96	.6839	.6815	.6828	—4	43,491
Sep 96	.6870	.6858	.6864	—4	2,822
Dec 96			.6900	—4	166
Est. sales N.A. Wed's. sales 25,686					
Wed's open int 79,918 off 2158					
JAPANESE YEN (CMER) 12.5 million yen, $ per 100 yen					
Mar 96	.009526	.009479	.009481	—37	24,025
Jun 96	.009637	.009593	.009596	—38	48,046
Sep 96	.009745	.009710	.009711	—38	1,141
Est. sales N.A. Wed's. sales 27,718					
Wed's open int 73,801 off 440					
SWISS FRANC (CMER) 125,000 francs, $ per franc					
Mar 96	.8436	.8405	.8419		17,454
Jun 96	.8512	.8478	.8494		25,079
Sep 96			.8568		416
Est. sales N.A. Wed's. sales 13,638					
Wed's open int 43,451 off 621					
3-MONTH STERLING (LIFFE) £500,000 - pts of 100 pct					
Mar96	93.87	93.84	93.87	+ 0.01	54,473
Jun96	94.00	93.95	93.97	Unch.	76,877
Sep96	93.84	93.75	93.80	+ 0.02	57,858
Dec96	93.53	93.41	93.49	+ 0.03	48,490
Mar97	93.13	93.04	93.10	+ 0.03	33,115
Jun97	92.74	92.66	92.73	+ 0.04	30,784
Sep97	92.44	92.36	92.44	+ 0.04	23,594
Dec97	92.22	92.14	92.21	+ 0.03	14,306
Mar98	92.03	91.94	92.02	+ 0.04	9,108
Jun98	91.88	91.79	91.87	+ 0.05	6,950
Sep98	91.75	91.67	91.74	+ 0.03	6,021
Dec98	91.64	91.58	91.64	+ 0.03	7,811
Est. sales: 47,070. Prev. sales: 95,626					
Prev. open int.: 369,287 up 6,741					
3-MONTH EUROMARK (LIFFE) DM1 million - pts of 100 pct					
Mar96	96.69	96.64	96.65	— 0.02	127,235
Jun96	96.78	96.73	96.75	Unch.	219,692
Sep96	96.62	96.57	96.60	+ 0.01	216,865
Dec96	96.32	96.25	96.30	+ 0.02	172,747
Mar97	95.94	95.86	95.93	+ 0.04	118,877
Jun97	95.54	95.46	95.53	+ 0.04	100,955
Sep97	95.15	95.06	95.13	+ 0.04	84,339
Dec97	94.75	94.68	94.75	+ 0.04	52,031
Mar98	94.42	94.36	94.42	+ 0.03	26,457
Jun98	94.11	94.06	94.12	+ 0.03	20,415
Sep98	93.86	93.76	93.83	+ 0.04	14,902
Dec98	93.53	93.47	93.53	+ 0.04	12,587
Est. sales: 132,498. Prev. sales: 177,042					
Prev. open int.: 1,167,102 up 8,601					
3-MONTH PIBOR (MATIF) FF5 million - pts of 100 pct					
Mar 96	95.75	95.72	95.73	— 0.01	
Jun 96	95.65	95.59	95.60	— 0.04	
Sep 96	95.57	95.51	95.51	— 0.06	
Dec 96	95.38	95.34	95.35	— 0.03	
Mar 97	95.17	95.14	95.15	— 0.03	
Jun 97	94.89	94.85	94.87	— 0.03	
Sep 97	94.61	94.57	94.59	— 0.02	
Dec 97	94.39	94.34	94.38	— 0.01	
Est. volume:46,843. Open int.:197,331					
3-MONTH EUROLIRA (LIFFE) ITL 1 million - pts of 100 pct					
Mar96	90.19	90.15	90.18	— 0.01	25,913
Jun96	90.75	90.63	90.74	+ 0.02	33,628
Sep96	91.04	90.95	91.04	+ 0.04	18,437
Dec96	91.06	90.96	91.06	+ 0.04	14,419
Mar97	90.96	90.88	90.97	+ 0.04	5,993
Jun97	90.93	90.79	90.91	+ 0.03	3,101
Est. sales: 21,104. Prev. sales: 22,640					
Prev. open int.: 101,491 off 3,406					
Industrials					
COTTON 2 (NCTN) 50,000 lbs.- cents per lb.					
May 96	85.25	83.75	85.20	+1.80	21,497
Jul 96	86.00	84.60	85.88	+1.63	11,574
Oct 96	82.30	81.30	82.30	+1.07	2,574
Dec 96	80.39	79.75	80.37	+0.92	17,411
Mar 97	81.05	80.50	80.10	—0.02	1,840
May 97	80.95	80.85	80.95	+0.20	787
Est. sales N.A. Wed's. sales 6,707					
Wed's open int 57,585 up 797					

	High	Low	Close	Chge	Opint
HEATING OIL (NMER) 42,000 gal- cents per gal					
Apr 96	55.20	53.50	55.07	+0.48	34,146
May 96	51.90	50.80	51.77	+0.12	17,478
Jun 96	50.40	49.60	50.32	+0.27	11,863
Jul 96	49.90	49.10	49.92	+0.22	7,748
Aug 96	49.85	49.85	50.27	+0.22	7,161
Sep 96	50.50	50.50	50.92	+0.22	2,798
Oct 96	51.25	50.90	51.52	+0.17	2,310
Nov 96			52.12	+0.17	3,307
Dec 96	52.30	52.05	52.72	+0.17	7,681
Jan 97			52.97	+0.17	3,251
Est. sales 24,641 Wed's. sales 32,314					
Wed's open int 89,598 up 2182					
LIGHT SWEET CRUDE (NMER) 1,000 bbl.- dollars per bbl.					
Apr 96	21.20	20.30	21.08	+0.50	58,702
May 96	19.85	19.40	19.80	+0.18	67,499
Jun 96	19.09	18.74	19.05	+0.10	50,827
Jul 96	18.57	18.36	18.50	—0.01	43,257
Aug 96	18.25	18.07	18.25	+0.05	24,391
Sep 96	17.99	17.88	17.99	+0.02	19,076
Oct 96	17.83	17.75	17.79	—0.04	12,744
Nov 96	17.80	17.68	17.80	+0.09	14,696
Dec 96	17.64	17.48	17.63	+0.03	28,772
Jan 97	17.55	17.51	17.55	+0.01	19,472
Feb 97	17.45	17.45	17.45	—0.03	7,486
Mar 97	17.43	17.40	17.42		4,397
Apr 97	17.40	17.40	17.48	+0.04	2,044
Est. sales 100,009 Wed's. sales 162,810					
Wed's open int 428,028 off 1429					
NATURAL GAS (NMER) 10,000 mm btu's, $ per mm btu					
Apr 96	2.280	2.200	2.240		24,459
May 96	2.170	2.110	2.140	—7	23,276
Jun 96	2.050	2.020	2.035	—7	15,953
Jul 96	1.990	1.970	1.970	—12	13,300
Aug 96	1.960	1.940	1.955	+5	12,842
Sep 96	1.930	1.915	1.930	+5	9,479
Oct 96	1.945	1.935	1.945	+3	9,570
Nov 96	2.005	1.995	2.005	+1	6,073
Dec 96	2.105	2.090	2.100	+7	8,658
Jan 97	2.120	2.110	2.128	+7	3,579
Feb 97	2.070	2.060	2.070	+10	3,010
Est. sales N.A. Wed's. sales 34,836					
Wed's open int 148,850 up 5005					
UNLEADED GASOLINE (NMER) 42,000 gal- cents per gal					
Apr 96	62.50	60.80	62.45	+0.84	28,594
May 96	61.80	60.40	61.74	+0.56	23,445
Jun 96	60.50	59.35	60.38	+0.54	8,972
Jul 96	58.50	57.80	58.68	+0.47	7,024
Aug 96	56.90	56.30	56.98	+0.42	3,991
Sep 96	54.85	54.85	55.18	+0.42	731
Est. sales 20,233 Wed's. sales 46,565					
GASOIL (IPE) U.S. dollars per metric ton - lots of 100 tons					
Mar 96	168.00	165.50	166.75	—2.25	21,363
Apr 96	160.00	158.50	160.00	—1.50	11,107
May 96	156.00	155.00	155.75	—1.25	8,984
Jun 96	154.25	153.50	154.00	—1.25	4,908
July 96	154.25	153.50	154.00	—0.75	4,009
Aug 96	154.50	154.50	154.00	—0.25	1,647
Sep 96	155.50	155.50	155.75	—0.75	1,129
Oct 96	N.T.	N.T.	157.00	—0.50	678
Nov96	157.75	158.00	157.25	—0.50	5,558
Est. sales:10,679 Open int.: 59,937 up 1,451					
BRENT OIL (IPE) U.S. dollars per barrel - lots of 1,000 barrels					
Apr 96	19.06	18.85	18.92	+0.13	17,411
May 96	18.21	17.86	17.98	+0.16	71,539
June 96	17.55	17.23	17.33	+0.21	29,467
July 96	17.02	16.79	17.09	+0.21	36,703
Aug 96	16.76	16.56	16.86	+0.22	10,882
Sep 96	16.61	16.41	16.70	+0.22	11,884
Oct 96	16.37	16.36	16.59	+0.23	3,293
Nov 96	N.T.	N.T.	16.49	+0.24	2,245
Dec 96	16.30	16.11	16.40	+0.24	7,868
Jan 97	16.15	16.08	16.32	+0.24	2,467
Feb 97	16.06	15.99	16.21	+0.25	237
Est. sales: 36,215. Open int.:203,600 off 5,485					
Stock Indexes					
S&P COMP. INDEX (CMER) 500 x index					
Mar 96	644.40	638.60	642.60	+5.10	82,720
Jun 96	650.80	643.00	648.30	+4.55	163,396
Sep 96	656.40	650.00	655.40	+6.25	4,088
Dec 96	661.00	658.00	660.00	+5.45	2,326
Est. sales N.A. Wed's. sales 130,744					
Wed's open int 222,730 off 1312					
FTSE 100 (LIFFE) £25 per index point					
Mar96	3671.0	3633.0	3670.0	+ 41.0	16,816
Jun96	3667.0	3631.0	3665.0	+ 38.5	53,745
Sep96	N.T	N.T	3680.0	+ 38.5	2,363
Est. sales: 30,460. Prev. sales: 32,255					
Prev. open int.: 72,924 up 1,530					
CAC 40 (MATIF) FF200 per index point					
Apr 96	1965.0	1943.0	1964.0	+ 19.00	
May 96	1967.0	1949.0	1967.5	+ 19.50	
Jun 96	1954.0	1943.0	1959.0	+ 19.00	
Sep 96	1948.5	1924.0	1941.5	+ 19.00	
Dec 96	1933.0	1938.5	1953.5	+ 19.00	
Est. volume:16,493. Open int.:59,591					

Commodity Indexes

	Close	Previous
Moody's	1,486.70	1,484.30
Reuters	2,134.30	2,132.40
D.J. Futures	150.86	150.09
CRB	247.32	246.79

NYSE

Thursday's 4 p.m. Close

Nationwide prices, not reflecting late trades elsewhere.
The Associated Press.

Breguet
Depuis 1775

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Continued on Page 16

ASIA/PACIFIC

Losses Grow for Chinese Industry

State-Owned Companies Bled Billions in '95, Beijing Says

Compiled by Our Staff From Dispatches

BEIJING — State-owned industrial companies' losses widened 34.4 percent in 1995, to 88.3 billion yuan ($10.6 billion), an economics official said Thursday, acknowledging that efforts to weed out inefficient operations were moving slowly.

"There are some deep-seated problems in our economic structure that are yet to be solved and some major difficult issues that need to be dealt with," Wang Zhongyu, minister of the State Economic and Trade Commission, said at a news conference during the National People's Congress session here.

"We will try our best to reduce state-firm losses in the future."

State industries covered in the national budget — many smaller companies are excluded from the budget list — registered losses of 40.9 billion yuan in 1995, an increase of 20.5 percent from 1994, he said. The debt-to-asset ratio of state enterprises in the budget was 67.5 percent in 1995, Mr. Wang said. He gave no comparative figure for 1994.

Mr. Wang said experiments to improve state industries were moving ahead in 18 cities. In those cities, he said, companies' debt-to-asset ratios had fallen because of increases in working capital, 366 enterprises had been merged, 103 companies in light industry had gone bankrupt, and 1.4 million workers had been "retired from active duties."

The significance of these mergers and bankruptcies was not the numbers but their role in furthering China's efforts to develop a system of "the survival of the fittest," Mr. Wang said.

But he added that the government would take "a gradual approach" to expanding experiments nationwide, saying, "we must take into account the ability of the state, the enterprises and the workers to handle" widespread bankruptcies.

"The relationship between reform, development and stability must be properly handled," he said, referring to fears that layoffs of more than 100 million surplus workers in state firms could spark social unrest.

Such concerns have long kept the government from letting large numbers of unprofitable state companies go bankrupt. *(Reuters, AFP)*

■ Interest Rate Hints

Dai Xianglong, governor of China's central bank, said China would not reduce interest rates again until inflation fell to 6.8 percent, the Chinese-language Ming Pao Daily News reported, according to a Bloomberg Business News dispatch from Hong Kong. China's inflation rate stood at 7.8 percent in January, its lowest level in more than four years.

Apple's Venture In Video Games: The Stakes Rise

By Andrew Pollack
New York Times Service

TOKYO — It would seem to be a potent combination: Apple Computer Inc. and Bandai Co. are developing a simplified home computer to combine the American company's innovative Macintosh technology with the Japanese toymaker's knack for fun — in other words, the Power PC meets the Power Rangers.

But as the Pippin Atmark goes on sale this month in Japan, questions are being raised about whether the machine really combines the best of the computer and toy worlds or is instead a poor compromise — underequipped as a computer yet, at about $620, overpriced as a video-game machine.

The companies, of course, are eager to dispel such skepticism. On Wednesday in New York, they held a recruiting meeting for software developers that Apple and Bandai hope will produce games and other programs for the Pippin, which will go on sale in the United States sometime in the autumn. The price has not yet been announced.

Bandai, which is making the machines under license from Apple, hopes to sell a combined 500,000 machines in the United States and Japan by the end of the year.

Apple and Bandai have even more riding on the success of Pippin than when they initiated their partnership two years ago. The Mighty Morphin Power Ranger boom, which made Bandai a household name in the United States, has faded, and Bandai, Japan's largest toy company, sees its future in multimedia rather than in plastic action figures.

Apple, meanwhile, is fighting for its life as its market share in computers declines and software companies stop developing programs for the Macintosh in favor of Microsoft Corp.'s more popular Windows operating system.

Apple hopes the low-priced Pippin, named after a type of apple, will spread Macintosh computer technology to a new consumer market, providing a broader audience to attract software developers.

Pippin is similar in many ways to video-game machines. It plays game and educational software stored on CD-ROMs, uses a television set as a display and is operated by a hand-held controller.

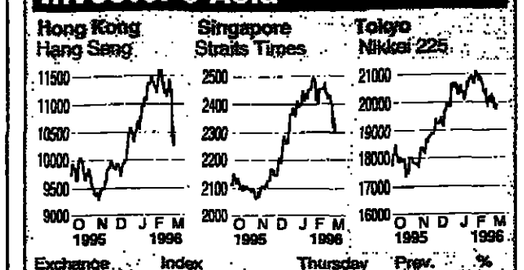
But its software operating system is a simplified variant of the one that controls the Macintosh, so Apple is positioning Pippin as being more sophisticated than a game machine. CD-ROMs developed for Pippin will, in most cases, run on the Macintosh, though those for the Macintosh will not run on Pippin.

Pippin can also provide access to the Internet and the World Wide Web, making it one of the first "network computers," a new breed of machines expected to sell for about $500.

"Pippin is the first low-cost, easy-to-use Web browser," said Satjiv Chahil, senior vice president of Apple. As such, Pippin could provide an early test of the proposition that consumers do not need a $2,000 personal computer to enter cyberspace.

Pippin is also a test for Apple in doing business the way Microsoft does — by licensing its designs and software. Bandai is in charge of making and selling the machine and will pay Apple a royalty of somewhat less than $20 a machine. Software companies will also pay Apple a royalty of $2 or $3 for each disk sold.

Investor's Asia



Exchange	Index	Thursday Close	Prev. Close	% Change
Hong Kong	Hang Seng	10,451.75	10,249.46	+1.97
Singapore	Straits Times	2,329.58	2,300.73	+1.25
Sydney	All Ordinaries	2,210.60	2,209.10	+0.07
Tokyo	Nikkei 225	19,823.66	19,734.70	+0.95
Kuala Lumpur	Composite	1,109.00	1,084.83	+2.23
Bangkok	SET	1,263.98	1,247.79	+1.30
Seoul	Composite Index	644.43	638.87	+0.66
Taipei	Stock Market Index	4,851.65	4,751.08	+2.12
Manila	PSE	2,783.63	2,769.92	+0.49
Jakarta	Composite Index	569.91	560.13	+1.75
Wellington	NZSE-40	2,090.27	2,081.12	+0.44
Bombay	Sensitive Index	3,386.05	3,373.73	+0.37

Source: Telekurs International Herald Tribune

Very briefly:

- **BASF AG** plans to buy a controlling stake in **Hokuriku Seiyaku Co.** for 36 billion yen ($342 million) to try to gain a 1 percent share of Japan's $50 billion pharmaceutical market.
- **NTT Mobile Communications Network Inc.**, a unit of **Nippon Telegraph & Telephone Corp.** is seeking government permission to cut rates on telephone calls by more than 20 percent by April 1.
- **Mitsubishi Electric Corp.** and **Alcatel-Alsthom SA** of France will share technology and cooperate in the fields of optoelectronic components and electrical railway equipment.
- **Japan**'s wholesale price index was unchanged in February from January but was down 0.1 percent from a year earlier.
- **Grand Metropolitan PLC** said its Burger King chain and **Japan Tobacco Inc.** would form a 50-50 joint venture to open 100 additional Burger King restaurants in the Tokyo area by the end of the decade.
- **Somsak Leeswadtrakul** is building three steel plants in Rayong in eastern **Thailand** to try to reduce the country's reliance on imports.
- **The Philippines'** consolidated public-sector deficit narrowed to 2.7 billion pesos ($103 million) in 1995 from 9.2 billion pesos in 1994. The consolidated public sector comprises the government and corporations owned or controlled by it as well as the country's oil buffer fund and central bank.
- **China** pledged to buy more **Philippine** products to reduce the trade imbalance between Beijing and Manila, a Philippine official said. In 1995, trade between the countries amounted to $1.3 billion, but Philippine exports totaled only $276 million.
- **Cosco Pacific Ltd.**, a **Hong Kong** subsidiary of **China**'s biggest shipping company, said 1995 net profit rose 15 percent, to $46.4 million, helped by its move into port operations. *AP, AFX, Bloomberg, Reuters*

CITIC Posts Rises in Profit And Assets

Compiled by Our Staff From Dispatches

BEIJING — China International Trust & Investment Corp. said Thursday it had an after-tax profit of more than 2 billion yuan ($239.5 million) in 1995, compared with 1.6 billion yuan in 1994.

CITIC's assets totaled 166.7 billion yuan at the end of the year, up from 133.5 billion yuan a year earlier, a spokesman said. Its net capital was 17 billion yuan as of Dec. 31.

A subsidiary of the company, CITIC Industrial Bank, became China's sixth-largest commercial bank last year in terms of profit, with earnings of more than 1 billion yuan, the official Xinhua news agency said. It did not say whether that was a post-tax figure.

CITIC intends to increase total assets by between 10 percent and 15 percent in each of the next five years, Xinhua said, citing a development plan forged by CITIC directors recently.

CITIC signed two agreements with Iran last year to build subways and to supply a cement production line. The two projects were valued at more than $300 million.

Separately, Cathay Pacific Airways Ltd. said the chairman of CITIC Pacific Ltd., Larry Yung, and its managing director, Henry Fan, had resigned as of Monday as nonexecutive directors of Cathay Pacific. CITIC Pacific is the Chinese conglomerate's Hong Kong-listed unit. *(Reuters, Bloomberg)*

Shaw Brothers Considers a Bid For Control of Hong Kong's TVE

Bloomberg Business News

HONG KONG — Shaw Brothers Ltd. said Thursday it may compete with South China Morning Post Ltd. for control of the media company TVE Ltd.

Shaw, which already owns 30.3 percent of TVE's shares, said it was considering making an offer for the rest of TVE and that a committee would decide Friday on a price.

The move would pit Shaw against Robert Kuok, a Malaysian businessman who owns about one-third of South China and one-third of TVE. Mr. Kuok, who is South China's chairman, wants to sell his TVE stake to South China.

South China, publisher of Hong Kong's largest-circulation English-language paper, offered last month to buy TVE in a stock swap that valued the company at about 1.1 billion Hong Kong dollars ($129 million).

Shaw Brothers and TVE have rejected that bid, saying it was too low and that the acquisition would hurt TVE's business with Shaw. TVE produces television programs that appear on Shaw's TV channel, TVB. TVE also publishes local editions of Harper's Bazaar and other magazines — the business that attracted South China's attention.

An analyst at UBS Securities, Kaushik Shirdharani, said of the Shaw move, "I haven't decided if this is just a negotiating tactic or whether they legitimately want TVE." Mr. Shirdharani estimated that Shaw had only 550 million dollars in cash.

South China's shares, which have fallen more than 6 percent since it announced its takeover bid, closed Thursday at 4.98 dollars. TVE shares rose 1.89 percent, to 2.70, and Shaw shares rose 1.2 percent, to 8.55.

Asia Pacific Resources to Expand

Bloomberg Business News

SINGAPORE — Asia Pacific Resources International Holdings Ltd. is considering a $2.5 billion expansion over the next three years, its chairman, Sukanto Tanoto, said Thursday.

Mr. Tanoto said the expansion would focus on the concern's rayon-pulp and power-generation businesses.

He also said the company would have an option to buy a 55 percent stake in a $1.2 billion pulp and paper-mill venture on Borneo owned by Rajah Garuda Mas International, a closely held Indonesian concern that he chairs. The venture, Sarawak Pulp & Paper, was formed with the Malaysian timber company PWE Industries Bhd.

As part of Asia Pacific Resources' expansion, Mr. Tanoto said, a 60.7-percent owned subsidiary, PT Inti Indorayon Utama, might increase its production of rayon fiber to 100,000 tons a year from 60,000 tons to meet demand in Indonesia.

Indorayon also has power-generation businesses in China, Malaysia and Indonesia and is expanding to 680 megawatts of generating capacity from 215 megawatts.

NKK to Cut More Jobs

Compiled by Our Staff From Dispatches

TOKYO — NKK Corp. said Thursday that it planned to make 1,700 additional job cuts in its steel division before the end of March 1997, expanding its existing retrenchment plans.

The new job cuts, combined with plans announced earlier to trim its staff, will reduce the company's total work force to 14,700, compared with 22,200 four years ago.

NKK announced a plan in 1993 to cut 3,200 steel jobs over four years, to the end of March 1997. It then revised the plan in 1994, raising the total number of job cuts to 4,200 over the period.

"We will continue restructuring the work force in our steel division in the 1996-97 business year," the company said.

NKK has engineering and other divisions in addition to its steel division.

Separately, Telekom Malaysia said in Kuala Lumpur it planned to slash 8,000 jobs, including 2,000 executive positions, from a total current staff of 29,000 through a voluntary program, the Star newspaper reported. *(Reuters, Knight-Ridder)*

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INTERNATIONAL BOND TRUST will pay out a dividend of USD 1.20 on March 18, 1996.

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Shareholders are invited to attend the ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING OF SHAREHOLDERS which will be held at 5, Boulevard de la Foire, Luxembourg on March 26, 1996 at 11.00 am:

AGENDA

1. Approval of the report of the Board of Directors and of the Auditor.
2. Approval of the financial statements for the fiscal year ended December 31, 1995.
3. Ratification of the interim dividend paid on January 12, 1996 and decision not to declare a further dividend.
4. Ratification of the co-optation of a Director.
5. Discharge of the Directors.
6. Re-appointement of the Directors and of the Auditor.
7. Miscellaneous.

NOTES:

1. Resolutions shall require no quorum but a simple majority of the shares present or represented at the Meeting.
2. Holders of bearer shares may vote at the Meeting in person by producing at the Meeting either share certificates or a certificate of deposit issued by their bank which will be issued to them against deposit of their share certificates.
Holders of bearer shares may vote at the Meeting by proxy by completing the form of proxy which will be made available to them against deposit of the share certificates as aforesaid.
Share certificates so deposited will be retained until the Meeting or any adjournment thereof has been concluded.

The Board of Directors

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Shareholders are invited to attend the ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING OF SHAREHOLDERS which will be held at 5, Boulevard de la Foire, Luxembourg on March 26, 1996 at 10.00 am:

AGENDA

1. Approval of the report of the Board of Directors and of the Auditor.
2. Approval of the financial statements for the fiscal year ended December 31, 1995.
3. Decision on allocation of net profits.
4. Discharge of the Directors.
5. Re-appointement of the Auditor.
6. Miscellaneous.

NOTES:

1. Resolutions shall require no quorum but a simple majority of the shares present or represented at the Meeting.
2. Holders of bearer shares may vote at the Meeting in person by producing at the Meeting a certificate of deposit which has been issued to them against deposit of their share certificates with their bankers or all offices of Credito Italiano in Italy, five days prior to the Meeting.
Holders of bearer shares may vote at the Meeting by proxy by completing the form of proxy which will be made available to them against deposit of their share certificates as aforesaid or presentation of their certificates of deposit. In order to be valid all forms of proxy must reach the company at its registered office, 5, boulevard de la Foire, L - 1528 Luxembourg or at Credito Italiano, five clear days prior to the Meeting.
Share certificates so deposited will be retained until the Meeting or any adjournment thereof has been concluded.

The Board of Directors

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NASDAQ

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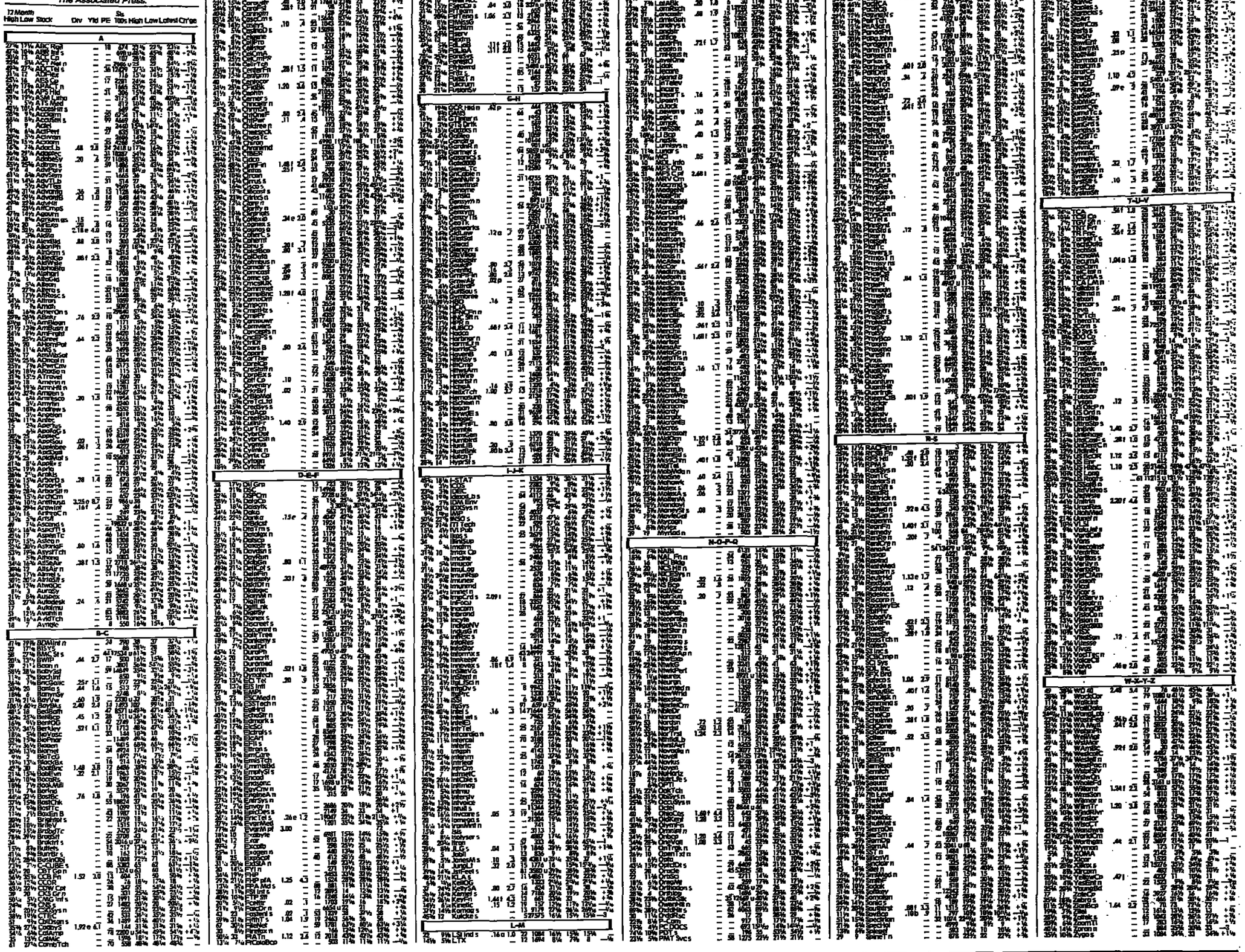
The 1,000 most-traded National Market securities in terms of dollar value, updated twice a year.
The Associated Press.



NYSE

Thursday's 4 p.m. Close

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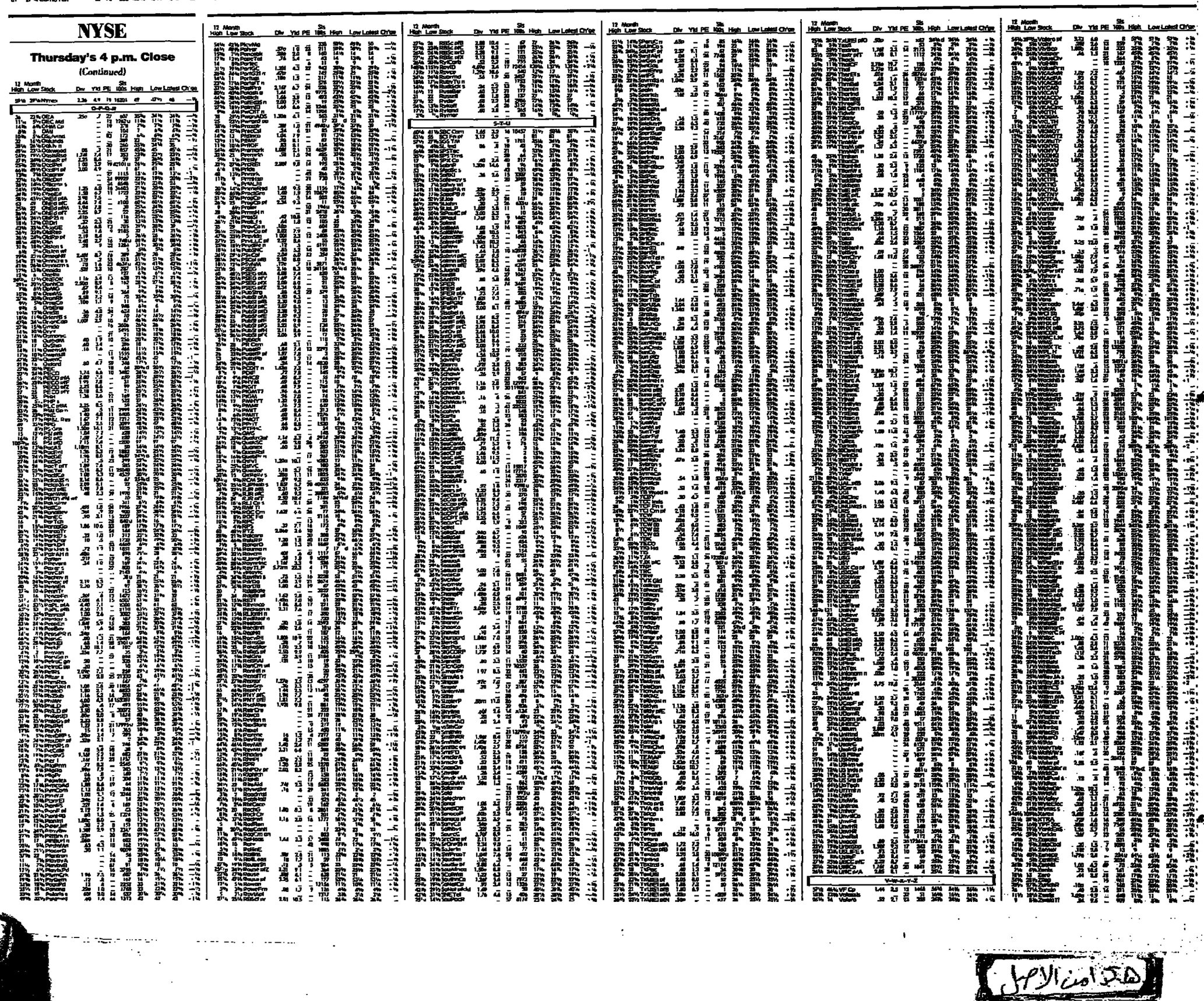


SPONSORED SECTION

MULTIMEDIA PART II

MEDIA ALLIANCES BOOST FRENCH SERVICES MARKET

The market is getting ready for deregulation.

France Telecom was experimenting with interactive broadband video technology in 1985, a decade before the information superhighway rolled around. But the French state operator's latest multimedia initiative promises to be even more revolutionary.

"With a little imagination, we can think of services people want and are willing to pay for and that we can afford to deliver on our existing network," says Gérard Eymery, who heads France Telecom Multimedia, a group set up in 1994 to promote interactive on-line services. "Our priority is the service, not the technology."

Already, in a bid to boost multimedia service development, the group has established a string of media alliances. The media and communications giant Havas, for example, is a key player in the multimedia arcade Wanadoo. Hachette is backing an electronic television magazine. Filipacchi is experimenting with interactive advertising on the Contact Television channel CTV. And for business-to-business readers, Infopro provides market information from the French financial press.

How's the Weather?

Other trials under way include, for the audience at home, a personal weather station, digital radio service and video on demand. By next spring, as more and more interactive applications are phased in, cybershoppers will be able to browse and buy in La Galerie Marchande thanks to high-speed multimedia.

"The high-speed multimedia link can be a set-top box, phone or Minitel," says Mr. Eymery. "Customers can see something they want on the screen and can get more details downloaded directly by cable or satellite."

At present, the missing link is the modem, which is still a relatively expensive item for most home users. As prices fall and the number of subscribers rise, high-speed multimedia is scheduled to take off around 1998.

Meanwhile, in the run-up to deregulation, France Telecom Multimedia is making the most of its profitable on-line business and assembling a formidable portfolio for sale to other investors in interactive networking.

In March, the group's recently created subsidiary, France Telecom Interactive, is launching an Internet package based on personal computer software. The package not only connects customers directly to the Internet, but also allows Internet users to access the on-line services of France's Teletel network.

"The software's the key. A single click on the Minitel icon gives the user access to around 25,000 on-line services at a stroke. We're also installing an electronic directory so people can find anyone's Web address and enter it automatically," says Mr. Eymery.

Many More Minitels

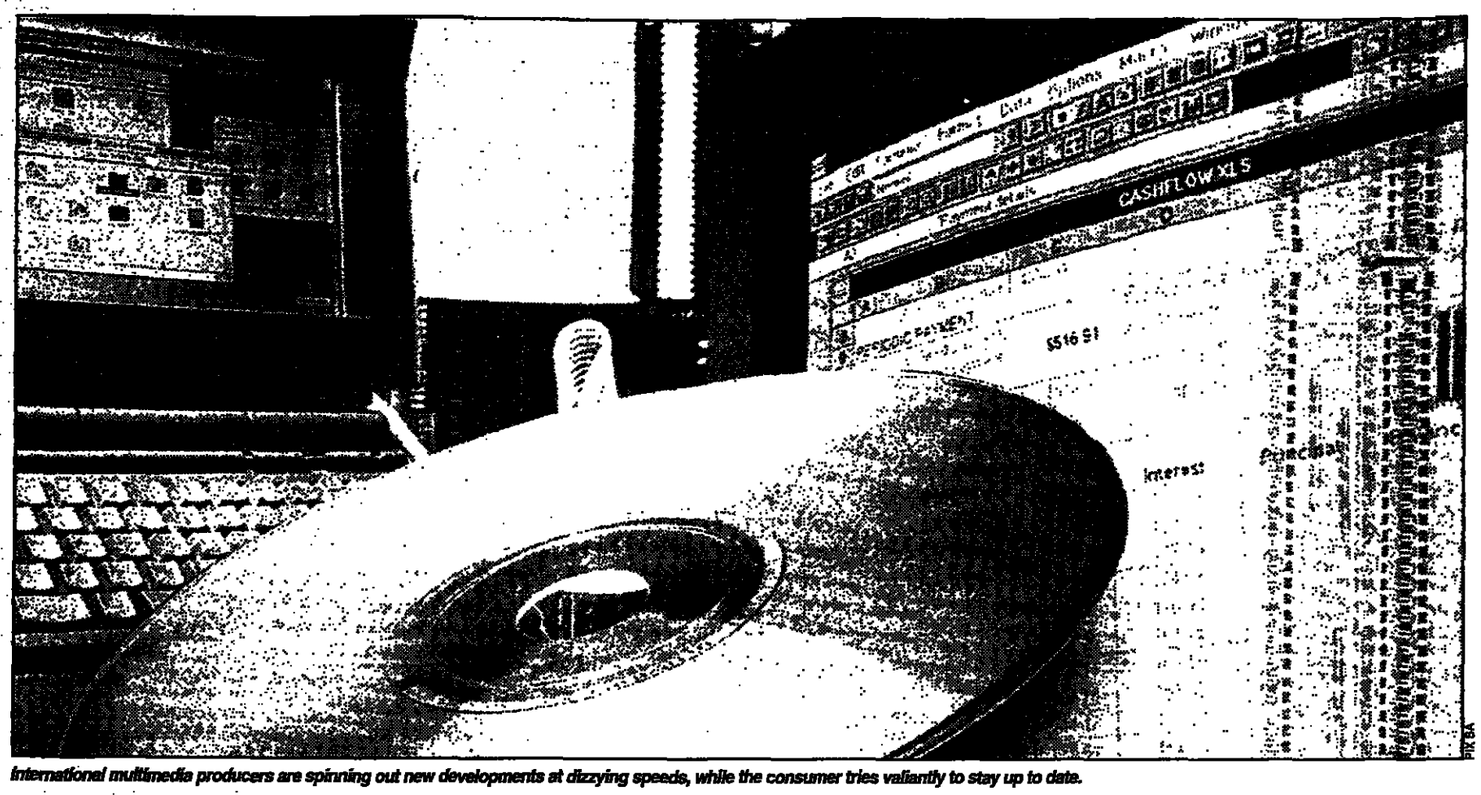
Teletel may not be multimedia – but it does have a $200 million turnover. And it is still growing. By the year 2000, according to industry estimates, there will be 6.5 million Minitel videotex terminals but only 4 million personal computers in French homes.

France Telecom Interactive's offer will further benefit from an aggressive pricing policy that enables consumers to connect to Internet addresses anywhere within France for the price of a local call. Beyond the national frontiers, thanks to the Global One tie-up, it can count on receiving worldwide sales and marketing support. But unlike its predecessor, the new-generation Minitel is not part of a broader industrial strategy.

"France Telecom is not a manufacturer, so we won't be producing a low-cost terminal. It's a competitive market. We are operators; our job is to deliver services," says Mr. Eymery.

If all goes according to plan, by the year 2000 – just two years after the deadline for European deregulation – France Telecom Multimedia will be managing a 2 billion-franc ($400 million) business. Meanwhile, for delivering these services, France Telecom will be receiving around 750 million francs in annual traffic revenues.

Steven Bartlett



International multimedia producers are spinning out new developments at dizzying speeds, while the consumer tries valiantly to stay up to date.

BEYOND COMPUTERS: A LOOK AT THE CUTTING EDGE

Say "multimedia" and the automatic association is with a personal computer – but that isn't the whole story, as some recent initiatives in Europe and elsewhere show.

The world's computer journals are full of reports on programs and peripherals that allow PCs to display, process, store and transmit moving images (including 3D images), sound and data. But non-computer-based multimedia systems are now the cutting edge of technological innovation.

DAB in the Skies

Take Digital Audio Broadcasting, DAB for short. The world's skies will soon feature six new DAB satellites if a group led by Daimler-Benz Aerospace (DASA) realizes its plans. In a technological first, the satellites will be broadcasting multi-track TV, ultra-high-quality radio and data packets to moving automobiles, trains, trams and ships.

To receive the DAB signals, these vehicles will use a technology recently premiered by Bosch and Deutsche Telekom. DAB piggybacks TV and data transmissions on to the "spare" space left on broadcast radio waves.

Or take the once-humble photocopying machine, now upgraded by such pioneers as Minolta into the keystone of full-fledged electronic document imaging and managing systems, in which files can be stored in a number of media and routed to a variety of places.

Dollars and Cents

In terms of dollars and cents, PC-driven products, services and peripherals (modems, CD-ROM drives, etc.) still make up the major share of the multimedia market. The battle to provide these items is currently being waged among fiercely competing consortia.

To supply attractive entertainment, educational and information programming worldwide, Microsoft Network has been busy signing up access and content partners and providers. Alarmed at the prospect of a software company jumping onto their turf, Europe's publishers are striking back: Some of them have formed a four-country group that features names like Macmillan and De Agostini.

That's not the problem with another Microsoft competitor, Germany Online. This "mega-alliance" includes Bertelsmann AG and America Online, partners in the new AOL-Bertelsmann Online service, which is going head-to-head in Germany against T-Online, Germany's largest on-line service provider.

T-Online, in turn, is owned by Deutsche Telekom, also a founding partner in the mega-alliance, along with Axel Springer Verlag. Springer, Germany's largest newspaper publishing house and normally in strong competition, directly and indirectly, with Bertelsmann, has taken equity stakes in both of the above on-line services.

Other on-line consortia include the Murdoch-led EyeQ, still reportedly in its incipient stages and focused initially on serving the British market, and Europe Online, the much ballyhooed, Burda-led group, now repositioned as a content-provider accessible via the World Wide Web. An AT&T-led group is also reportedly in the wings.

Soon Obsolete?

All these consortia may soon find themselves and their services obsolete if the latest Web-based multimedia hit – CU-Seeme – continues its rapid ascent.

Developed at Cornell University in 1993, the CU-Seeme software takes the consortia's standard products and goes them one better. Instead of e-mail, CU-Seeme offers, as its name suggests, live face-to-face video conferences. Instead of a selection of specially designed on-line entertainment, CU-Seeme users have access, via the WWW, to the world's films, TV programs and video games, on demand and at local telephone rates.

At the core of the new system are 800 "reflectors" – dedicated, UNIX-based servers. The CU-Seeme system still suffers from the problems afflicting all Internet-related graphics: slow downloading times, low picture quality and a high rate of Internet "space occupancy."

Should the Internet's carrying capacity be greatly upgraded, however, CU-Seeme could initiate a wave of do-it-yourself multimedia networking.

Terry Swartzberg

VIDEO GAME WAR TURNS TO PCS

While superheroes fight on televisions and computer screens, electronics, software and video-game makers are battling it out in the real world for market share in a business valued at more than $12 billion.

Video games can now be played at home on TV sets, in the car on portable devices and on personal computers (PCs). The gameboards and video-game players, or hardware, that used to set the standards are losing ground to software, the creative games themselves.

This is because more and more consumers are demanding games that can be played on their computers, not just on TV sets. There will always be demand for some video consoles like low-priced portable devices and TV-based systems for more than one player, but as consumers get comfortable using their PCs for educational games, it is only natural that they will want to play more games on computers too.

In the United States, sales of software for computer games – sold on CD-ROM – increased from $821 million in 1994 to $1 billion last year, according to PC Data of Reston, Virginia. The top 30 manufacturers include companies like Sierra On-Line, LucasArts, Broderbund Software, Virgin, Microsoft Corp. and others. U.S. parents, once opting to buy primarily educational games for their children, are increasingly buying videos that are seen as pure fun. A September 1995 survey by the Gallup Organization revealed that 92 percent of adults believed computers and software, including games, were good gifts for children 13 and older. Hoping to build on this movement, software makers are following in the footsteps of video-game makers and are establishing strong ties with the entertainment industry.

Film-based Games

A software developer called 7th Level Inc., owned by Microsoft, recently linked up with Walt Disney to produce games based on hit movies like the "Lion King." And in a move that sent shock waves though the video-game industry in Japan – home of market leaders Sega, Nintendo Corp. and Sony Corp. – Japanese software-maker Softbank Corp. agreed in June to form a venture with Microsoft to put video games on personal computers.

The venture is to be called Gamebank Corp. and will be owned jointly by Softbank (60 percent) and Microsoft (40 percent). It will license games from makers and convert them for use on computers. Bandai Co. (Japan's largest toy maker), Namco Ltd. (a game maker) and six other developers have said they will offer their titles to the venture. As this group comes up with hit titles, some demand for video players will fade away, analysts say.

Threat From Software

Video-game-hardware makers will be forced to rely more on software to survive. Nintendo – which sells its games on cartridges instead of CD-ROMs – faces the greatest threat. Sega is hedging its bets and plans to launch 30 games for the PC market this year.

Although fewer consumers own home computers in Japan than in the United States, the market is rising more than 20 percent each year. Last year, some 5.71 million Japanese bought computers, according to the research firm Dataquest.

The appeal of computers has video-game makers scrambling to improve the features of their devices. Sega, Nintendo, Matsushita Electric Industrial Co. (maker of the 3DO system) and Bandai plan to introduce equipment that lets consumers access the Internet and send electronic mail through their video-game terminals, says the Nikkei Shimbun, Japan's economic daily. The equipment will be priced at about $500, but analysts were skeptical that the new products would meet great demand, given their limited capabilities. If nothing else, they further blur the lines between the merging video-game and computer markets. **Janet Purdy Levaux**

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"Tracking Telecoms: A Virtual Tour of the World of Communications" is a multimedia CD-ROM produced by the International Herald Tribune as an extension of the telecommunications megatrends published in seven Sponsored Sections during the Telecom 95 show held in Geneva.

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MULTIMEDIA PART II

NET-ING INVESTORS IN SOUTHERN EUROPE

The increasing use of multimedia in daily commerce should not come as a surprise to businesspeople.

Professor Steven Heppell of Britain's Anglia Polytechnic University points out that "life is generally a multimedia experience," so business applications are merely a case of technology's catching up with reality. Several of Europe's regional development authorities, whose job it is to promote economic investment in a specific geographic area, are also beginning to catch up.

Multimedia can be seen as helping regional development in at least three ways. Offered as a part of infrastructure, the presence of multimedia services makes an area more attractive to a wide range of businesses. Targeted as desirable in themselves (because they are nonpolluting, value-added and growing), multimedia companies are wooed by regional officials.

And when multimedia technologies are used by these same authorities to promote a region, they can make a message more effective, bearing in mind a basic rule of communication: We learn 20 percent of what we see (the printed word), 40 percent of what we see and hear (television) and 70 percent of what we see, hear and do (interactive media).

GENEVA'S MAN

The city of Geneva recognized the importance of a sophisticated communications infrastructure in 1994, when it was bidding to become the headquarters location for the new World Trade Organization. The development of such an infrastructure would help Geneva "maximize its role as an international and global city," noted Jean-Philippe Maître, head of Geneva's Department of Economic Affairs, at last October's Telecom '95 telecommunications conference, when the pilot MAN (Metropolitan Area Network) project was presented.

With MAN in place, employees at any of the city's international organizations can share documents, hold video conferences and take part in interactive training sessions. When the pilot program ends in June this year, Geneva's participating government entities and corporate sponsors will know better how to integrate multimedia into their professional activities.

Multimedia companies, like many using new technologies, prosper best in clusters. They are often courted by development councils because they are "clean" industries with strong growth potential, and they draw a well-educated work force. Montpellier, France has developed a 200-hectare "technopole" to attract such companies and has been holding an international conference on virtual reality, called "Interface to Real and Virtual Worlds," for the last five years, in part to promote these efforts. Some 5,000 people attend each year, one-third of whom are non-French.

Gabrielle Deloncle, vice president of the Economic Development Commission, Montpellier Technopole, explains that Montpellier Technopole differs from some other government-designated sites in France specializing in multimedia and telecommunications because its focus is production and content, not simply infrastructure. "We recently created a regional bulletin board for all members of Montpellier Technopole, and we expect to have 600 participants by year's end," she says.

SOPHIA ANTIPOLIS

The Sophia Antipolis Technopole on the Côte d'Azur is the largest in Europe, and – with close to 1,000 enterprises – the most successful so far in attracting high-technology companies. So many of these companies are multimedia-based that a club, MITSA (Multimedia Interactivity Teleactivity Sophia Antipolis), was created in 1994 to serve as a meeting point for their interests. It currently boasts over 100 members.

IMeT, the Mediterranean Institute for On-Line Activities, was formed in Sophia the same year and has, among its projects, a pilot health-care program in cooperation with the Montpellier area. Sophia Antipolis's Web site went on-line last October.

It was followed a month later by a Web site developed by Côte d'Azur Development (CAD), the agency responsible for promoting economic investment in the Alps-Maritimes. CAD press attaché Catherine Gentil reports that the site has 600 visitors and almost a dozen inquiries weekly. "It gives us the opportunity to communicate a technological image of the Côte d'Azur on a global scale," she explains.

Ten months earlier, the Milan Chamber of Commerce introduced its own Web site to promote the multimedia industry in Lombardy. The site is part of a program called DIMMI (digital interactive multimedia made in Italy). "DImmi" in Italian also means "tell me," so there is an interactive connotation to the name itself.

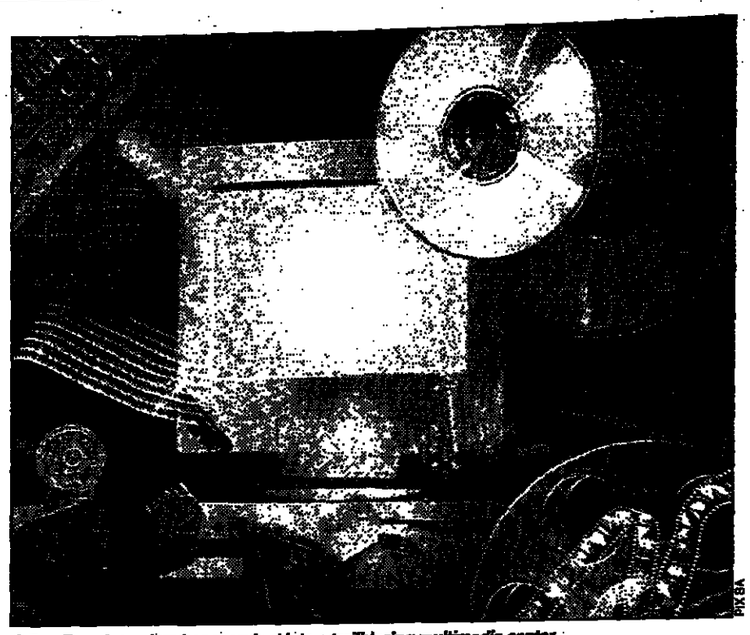
IN ITALIANO

Bruno Pertici, international division coordinator of the Milan Chamber of Commerce, describes the site as "pragmatic and practical," providing useful information in English and Italian.

For the moment, DIMMI and CAD are basing their multimedia promotions on the Internet. Montpellier introduced both its Web site and a CD-ROM (in English) in February 1996. "CD-ROMs are consistent with our image – interactive and modern," says Philippe Stanfanini, business development manager for Montpellier Technopole.

A modern image can also be a drawback. Says Pertici of DIMMI, "We have a generational problem because the new technologies – the Internet, video conferencing – are not widely used by family-owned businesses. That will change when the grandchildren of the current postwar generation take charge." In other words, when families "catch up" to technology.

Claudia Flisi



A San Francisco slum has morphed into a trailblazing multimedia center.

THE PHENOMENON CALLED MULTIMEDIA GULCH

A new multimedia center rivals Silicon Valley.

It occupies only some two dozen city blocks in a former slum of San Francisco, but in a few short years it has achieved success that rivals that of Silicon Valley just down the peninsula.

Silicon Valley has become renowned for producing multimedia tools. Its less-famous relative has repeatedly demonstrated, in brilliant fashion, what can be done with those tools to produce some of the industry's most compelling multimedia.

Some of the most popular and original CD-ROMs, kiosks and on-line pages have been created by the brilliant designers and programmers of Multimedia Gulch. Although far from the New York and Los Angeles publishing centers, they are blazing new trails far out of proportion to the size of their operations, with entertainment and education titles like "Iron Helix" and Peter Gabriel's "Xplora." Trumpeting their triumphs are pioneering magazines like Wired and New Media, which also began their lives there.

It seems an odd genesis. Not only was Multimedia Gulch born in the unlikeliest of cities for such an activity – a laid-back, low-tech West Coast American town that spawned the Flower Generation of the 1960s – but it is also in the most unpromising of neighborhoods: the area known as SOMA (South of Market), an amorphous collection of anonymous, derelict warehouses south of the famous street that cuts diagonally through the city's heart.

IN THE TRENCHES

Concentrated in the area running west from San Francisco Bay to Division Street are more than 100 multimedia companies. On its fringe is the city campus of San Francisco State University, considered one of America's leading multimedia schools, where courses are taught by men and women working in the trenches of Gulch companies.

The term "Multimedia Gulch" first appeared in a Jan. 18, 1993 Newsweek article that profiled Ikonic and two other companies, Against All Odds Productions (which produced "Alice to Ocean") and Paramount Communication's new interactive division.

Robert May, a Gulch veteran and Ikonic's chairman and CEO, founded Video Destinations, Ikonic's predecessor, in 1985. "At that time," he says, "there was a very small core group of perhaps 20 interactive enthusiasts in San Francisco. Silicon Valley was regarded as a cultural wasteland with no restaurants or theaters. Programmers and technologists who craved art and culture lived in San Francisco.

"When they found they could create art on computers and get paid for it, without commuting to the Valley, they stayed home. For example, I started Destinations in the basement of the house where I still live eleven years later.

"All you needed was a Macintosh computer that offered bit-mapped graphics and built-in sound and which was relatively small and portable. San Francisco also had a strong television and film community. The most important, but subtle, factor was that most of the early pioneers had been 'hippies.' Among their other characteristics, hippies seemed to have the ability to think in the non-linear, associative fashion that is the hallmark of good interactive multimedia."

Ikonic now provides what it calls "networked interactive solutions to the media, telecom and high tech industries." Its products have included electronic commerce, news, corporate information and consumer intimacy services. Like other Gulch companies, it has expanded beyond the area's boundaries to provide solutions for Internet, cable modem, direct-broadcast satellite and in-flight systems for French, Spanish, Portuguese, Chinese, Arabic, Hindi, Urdu, Bahasan and English-speaking audiences. Perhaps 20 percent of its revenue comes from Asia, Europe and the Middle East, a figure it expects will reach 30 percent of sales by the end of 1996.

THE BIG GUYS

Big-name companies that had their genesis in the Gulch produce the wide range of software and services vital to the creation of top-end multimedia. They include Drew Pictures, Brilliant Media-games and Sumeria Inc. (CD-ROM developers); Vivid Studios (Web development); Macromedia (software tools); Xaos Inc. and Colossal Pictures (special effects); TX Unlimited and JB Imaging (electronic imaging); Light & Sound Publishing (electronic publishing); and Varitel Communications (video and multimedia post-production).

Despite the inducements to move to higher-profile multimedia centers like New York and Los Angeles, Ikonic and its sister companies prefer to remain in the Gulch. "Much of the world's most advanced technology is still developed within a one hundred-kilometer radius of San Francisco, and the city is still a magnet for non-linear, associative thinkers," according to Mr. May.

Will the Gulch remain a leader in the future? "The future is in networked, digital interactive services," says Mr. May. "The Internet will be the dominant interactive delivery system for the foreseeable future on a number-of-interactive-customers basis. Digital broadcast satellite will dominate non-interactive markets."

RUNNING ON ESPRESSO

Mr. May adds: "I believe that the Gulch will continue to dominate. Capital is easy to find in the Gulch; venture capitalists literally roam the streets looking for hot young companies to fund," Mr. May says, adding: "Big companies with deep pockets have historically been unable to stimulate the excitement and risk/reward ratios that power this boom.

"As the overall market grows, other cities, including New York and Los Angeles, will spawn competitors. I believe Multimedia Gulch espresso shops will have plenty of customers into the next millennium."

Steve Van Beek

Some of the most popular and original CD-ROMs are coming out of Multimedia Gulch.

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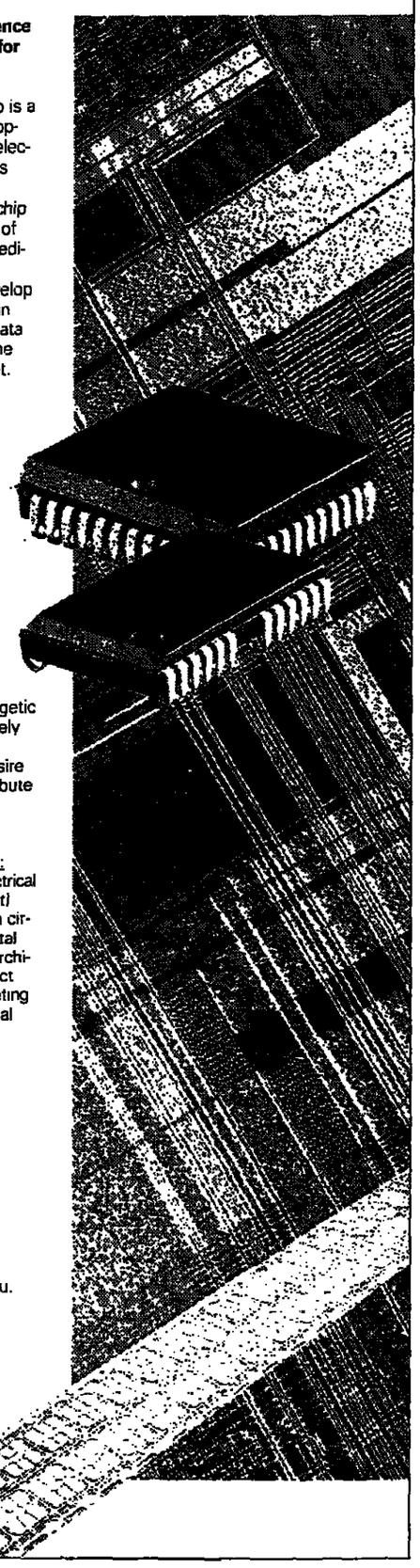

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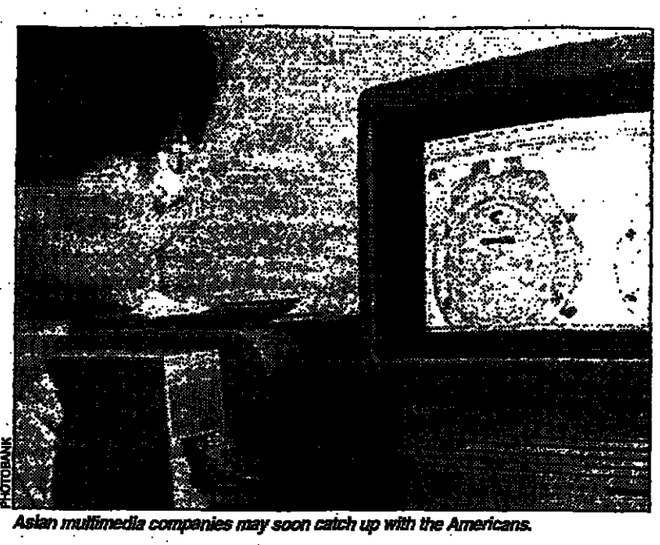
MULTIMEDIA PART II

ASIAN ENTHUSIASM FOR MULTIMEDIA RUNS HIGH

Asia is proving to be a highly receptive market.


PHOTOBANK
Asian multimedia companies may soon catch up with the Americans.

Asian multimedia companies have taken a back seat to the American firms now riding the crest of the multimedia wave, but that may change.

As the so-called Asian century begins to dawn, Asian companies are carving out their own niche. Many see Asia surpassing its mentors within a decade.

TAKING ON THE BIG GUYS

Multimedia Asia, based in Bangkok, is typical of many Asian multimedia start-up companies with goals as ambitious as their names and growth as rapid as their ambitions. The company operates as a semi-autonomous unit within the M Group, which created publishing history last year by establishing Asia Times as Asia's first regional newspaper, going head-to-head with established global newspapers based in the United States.

Multimedia Asia was set up by a Thai graphic designer, Amporn Kladray, and an American multimedia developer, John Molloy, a long-time resident of Thailand. Although in business only since May 1995, the company has already created an educational CD-ROM, "A to Z," to teach English to children and is gaining respect for its innovative design and absorbing content.

NEW YORK TO ASIA

After four years in New York, the pair returned to Thailand because they felt it offered more potential. To their surprise, they found Asians more receptive to multimedia than many of the American corporate giants they had previously served.

"It was our experience that in the United States, executives look at multimedia and say 'Wow, great, somebody should do this,' but can't *put themselves into the picture*," says Mr. Molloy. "In Bangkok, they say, 'Great, when do we start?' It is even easier to sell multimedia in Europe than in the U.S."

Multimedia Asia operates in four areas: presentation work and company-specific applications, commercial CD-ROMs, on-line services (the group will soon become an Internet provider and have a regional on-line presence) and multimedia services.

HELPING CHILDREN

"We also want to help Thai children by producing educational material to improve the quality of education available to them," Ms. Kladray says. "We are focusing on language instruction because multimedia is the perfect way to teach English."

Mr. Molloy sees Thailand emerging as the region's multimedia leader. "Hong Kong companies like Black Box are doing good commercial CD-ROM work as is iMedia in Singapore," says Mr. Molloy. "Taiwan is creating some good educational-development titles. There is surprisingly little from Japan: we've been approached by many Japanese clients because they can't find good, economical companies in Japan. As a result of our studies, I think Thailand will become the dominant regional producer and will increasingly become more attractive to U.S. producers because the production costs are so low.

"This product is essentially an intellectual item, so your main costs are employee payrolls," Mr. Molloy adds. "I can hire 15 people here for what it costs me to hire one good designer in New York. In the U.S., they think of the break-even point in terms of hundreds of thousands of copies. Here, our costs are lower, so if we sell 5,000 copies, we are doing great."

Another advantage is the region's talent pool. "Our initial ad for staff got 200 applicants for eight positions," Ms. Kladray says. "All were very talented. We could have hired 50 on the spot. In New York, we would have had two people apply, and they wouldn't have been as talented. None of our applicants had multimedia skills, but they had visualization talent and they were trainable. Lots of Japanese animation companies have come here because the Thais are skilled animators and graphic artists."

DEEPER POCKETS

Asian economies also have deeper pockets than they did a decade ago. "In New York, we had a great list of clients and a staff of 20," Mr. Molloy says.

"But we were limited in the scale of what we could do. Here, we don't have capitalization problems; we have links with publishers all over the world, and we are tapping into the most dynamic region economically in the world, with an enormous domestic market."

S.V.B.

AUSTRALIA: A FAST UPTAKE ON NEW TECHNOLOGY AS INDUSTRY DEVELOPS

Pioneering events are taking place Down Under.

History was made this month when remote-controlled on-line cameras 50 meters high beamed images from Australia's internationally famous Adelaide Festival of Arts onto the Internet to create a cyberfestival.

The cameras constructed a virtual reality image of the city's bustling, cafe-filled East End artistic quarter and combined it with a groundbreaking Web site containing interviews and reviews of many of the hundreds of fringe productions during the three-week festival.

WIRELESS 'INTERTENT'

The images were funneled to a solar-powered "Intertent" in the city's parklands and connected to the Net via microwave links, making it the world's first totally wireless Intertent.

At the same time, the first non-American membership in California's Bay Area Multimedia Technology Alliance (BAMTA) was announced, brought about by the city's MFP Australia Multifunction Polis project on behalf of the Australian multimedia industry.

This was celebrated with an on-line camera hookup with BAMTA in California for the duration of the festival.

Activities such as these indicate the vibrant enthusiasm being injected into Australia's multimedia industry, although nationally it still mirrors the global multimedia environment in its diversity and fragmentation.

STRATEGIC INITIATIVES

In an attempt to correct this situation, the Australian government released its Creative Nation statement in October 1994. It recognized the potential of the emerging multimedia industry and announced five strategic initiatives for its development.

These included the creation of the Australian Multimedia Enterprise to finance development and commercialization of interactive multimedia products, and the establishment of six Cooperative Multimedia Centres across Australia. These CMCs are at the heart of Australia's fast-growing multimedia industry. They provide resource centers for education and training, state-of-the-art equipment, leading-edge research and development, and assistance with issues such as intellectual property and product testing.

Each of the CMCs is expected to specialize in specific activities and to network nationally. The BAMTA membership, for example, was negotiated on behalf of the South Australian CMC by MFP Australia but provides BAMTA access to all the other CMCs.

South Australia, with its strong educational, cultural and scientific communities, is expected to become a major supplier of multimedia content, especially for education and training.

URBAN TRIALS

These highly focused initiatives to develop the Australian multimedia industry come at a time when Australia is also embarking on several internationally significant urban community developments that will provide major testing grounds for multimedia application.

The first and probably least complex of these is the 18,000 site Springfield residential development on the outskirts of Brisbane, Queensland.

Beginning in June 1996, every home, business and community facility will be equipped with computer and fiber optic cabling. Backers of the trial include Apple Computer and national telecom giant Optus Vision.

More significant will be the world's largest experimental "televillage," to be established in the Canberra suburb of Gungahlin this year. This Telstra-backed initiative will provide broadband interactive television to 5,000 residents, giving them access to cable TV, the Internet, home shopping and banking, education services, government services and on-line newspapers.

TELEVILLAGES

This will be followed by Australia's largest and most complex high-tech community, being established by MFP Australia in Adelaide. Construction is due to start in late 1996.

The project will cover 10,000 to 12,000 residents, embrace an existing technology park and university campus, and have an IT commitment to be some three to five years ahead of the rest of the Australian market.

TEEN-TECH

Australians have already demonstrated that they have one of the world's fastest uptakes on new technology.

Of Australia's estimated 6.2 million homes, about 99 percent have at least one TV, more than 77 percent have a VCR, 18 percent have at least one mobile phone and about a third have one or more home personal computers. The latter figure rises to about 60 percent for families with teenage children.

There seems little doubt that Australians will be among the best-equipped in the world to take advantage of the world's multimedia products. It will also be making a strong contribution to their development.

Nigel Hopkins

"MULTIMEDIA PART II"
was produced in its entirety by the Advertising Department of the International Herald Tribune.
WRITERS: *Steven Bartlett in Paris, Claudia Flisi in the South of France, Janet Purdy Levaux in Los Angeles, Nigel Hopkins in Adelaide, Terry Swartzberg in Munich, Steve Van Beek in Bangkok.*
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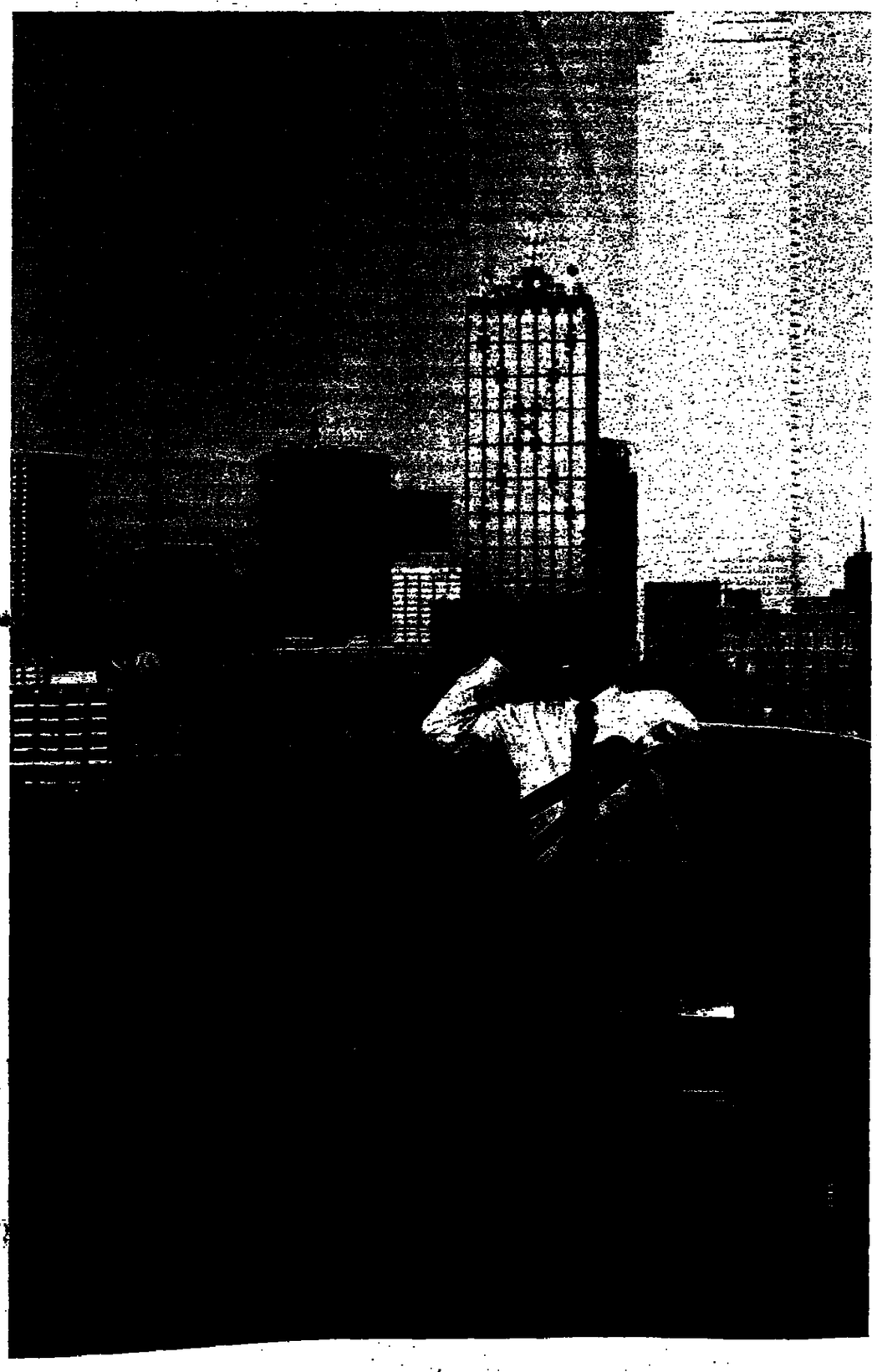

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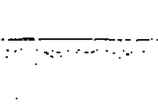

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INTERNET REVIEWERS

While there are numerous useful search engines, they are pure muscle, bringing back as many sites as possible. The sheer number of sites has spurred several groups to rate the quality of content and select the best. Here are three of them:

Web Review
http://www.gnn.com/gnn/wic/news.49.html

The McKinley Group
http://www.mckinley.com/

Point Communications
http://www.pointcom.com/

MULTIMEDIA RESOURCES

Multimedia Sourcebook
http://www.mmsource.com/multimedia/
An electronic directory of 6,000 U.S. companies dealing in creative services, hardware, software, interactive television, telecommunications and more.

SEARCH ENGINES

Altavista
http://www.altavista.digital.com
The Net's most powerful search engine, capable of searching 10 billion words in more than 21 million pages.

NetGuide
http://techweb.cmp.com/techweb/ng/current
A guide to interesting sites on the Web.

WebCrawler
http://webcrawler.com/
Another powerful search engine.

Yahoo!
http://www.yahoo.com
The famed site – created by two Stanford University dropouts – with links to multimedia and other sites worldwide.

TELECOMMUNICATIONS INDUSTRY

AT&T Home Page
http://www.att.com/
Information on products and developments in telecommunications and the Net.

MCI
http://www.InternetMCI.com
Information on products and developments in telecommunications and the Net.

WEB DEVELOPMENT

A Beginner's Guide to HTML
http://www.cuhk.hk/htmlprimer/HTMLPrimer.html
A beginner's guide to using HyperText Mark-up Language (HTML), the authoring tool for creating Web pages.

PC Weeks' How to Create a Home Page
http://www.pcweek.ziff.com/~pcweek/WebTools.html
Instructions on how to create a Web home page.

WEB-RELATED ON-LINE MAGAZINES

Advertising Age
http://www.adage.com/IMM/roadkill.html
Net-related items from the foremost advertising industry magazine in the United States.

E-NET—Entrepreneur NET
http://cyberzine.org/html/Entrepreneur/enetpage.html
How to set up a home page at E-NET.

HotWired
http://www.hotwired.com/
One of the most innovative cyberzines on the Net.

Java World
http://www.javaworld.com
Web magazine produced by International Data Corporation for Internet developers using Java programming language.

New Media
http://www.hyperstand.com/
Regarded by many as the foremost on-line magazine on Web issues, events and news.

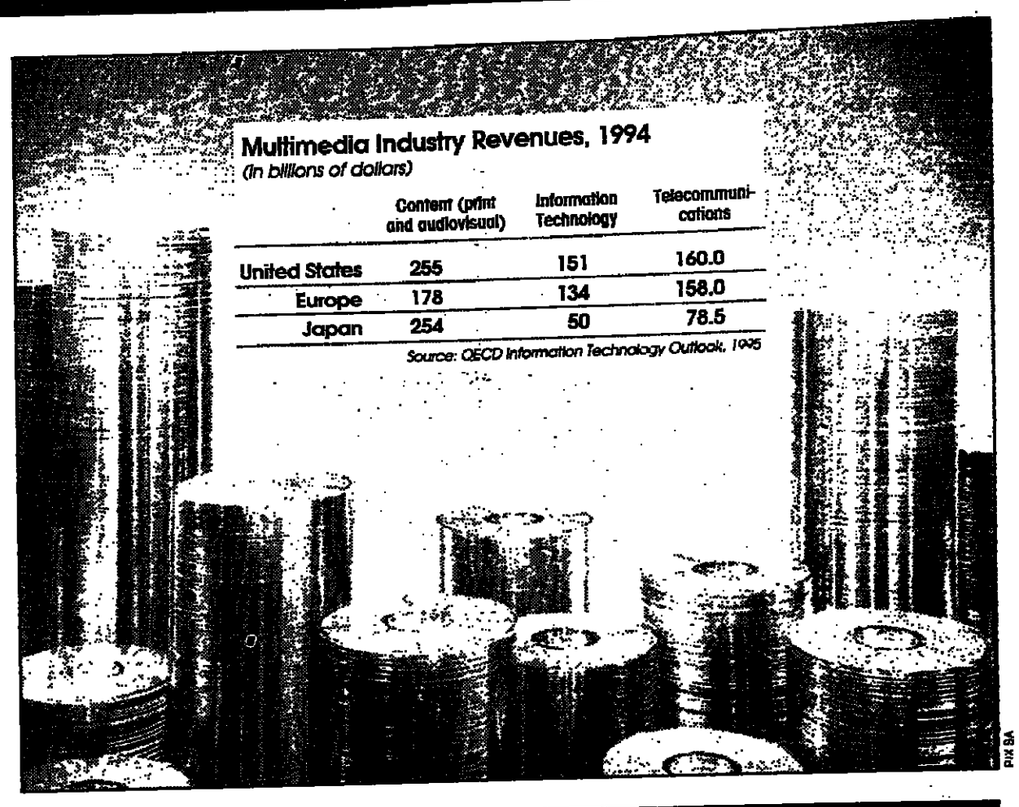
Ziff-Davis
http://www.ziff.com/
Home page for PC World Online, MacWEEK, Computer Life and others, with current news on computers and the Net.

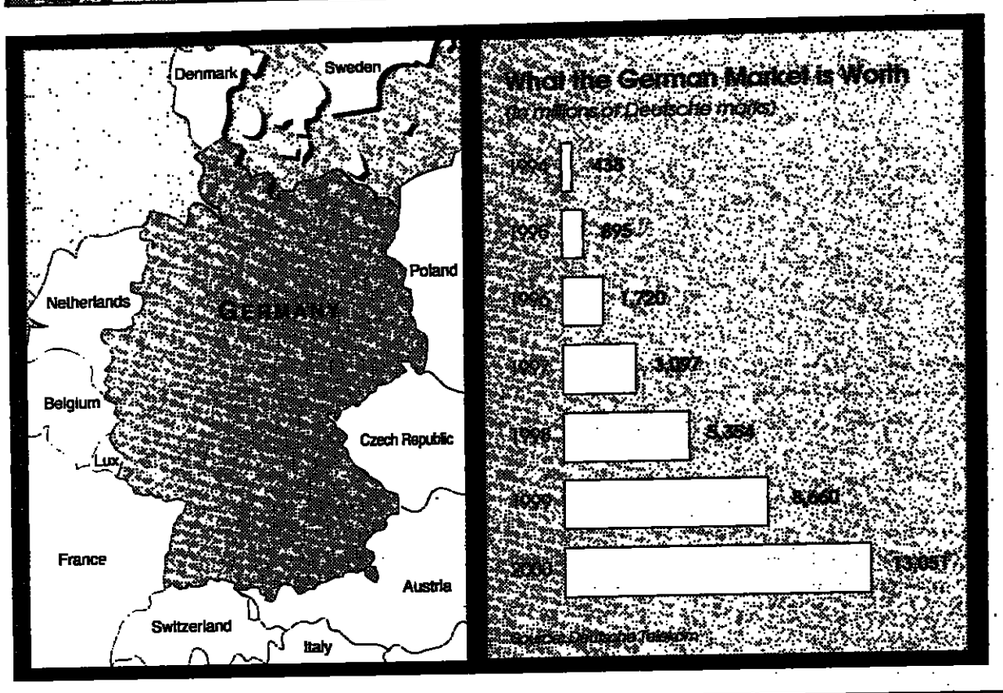
FUN

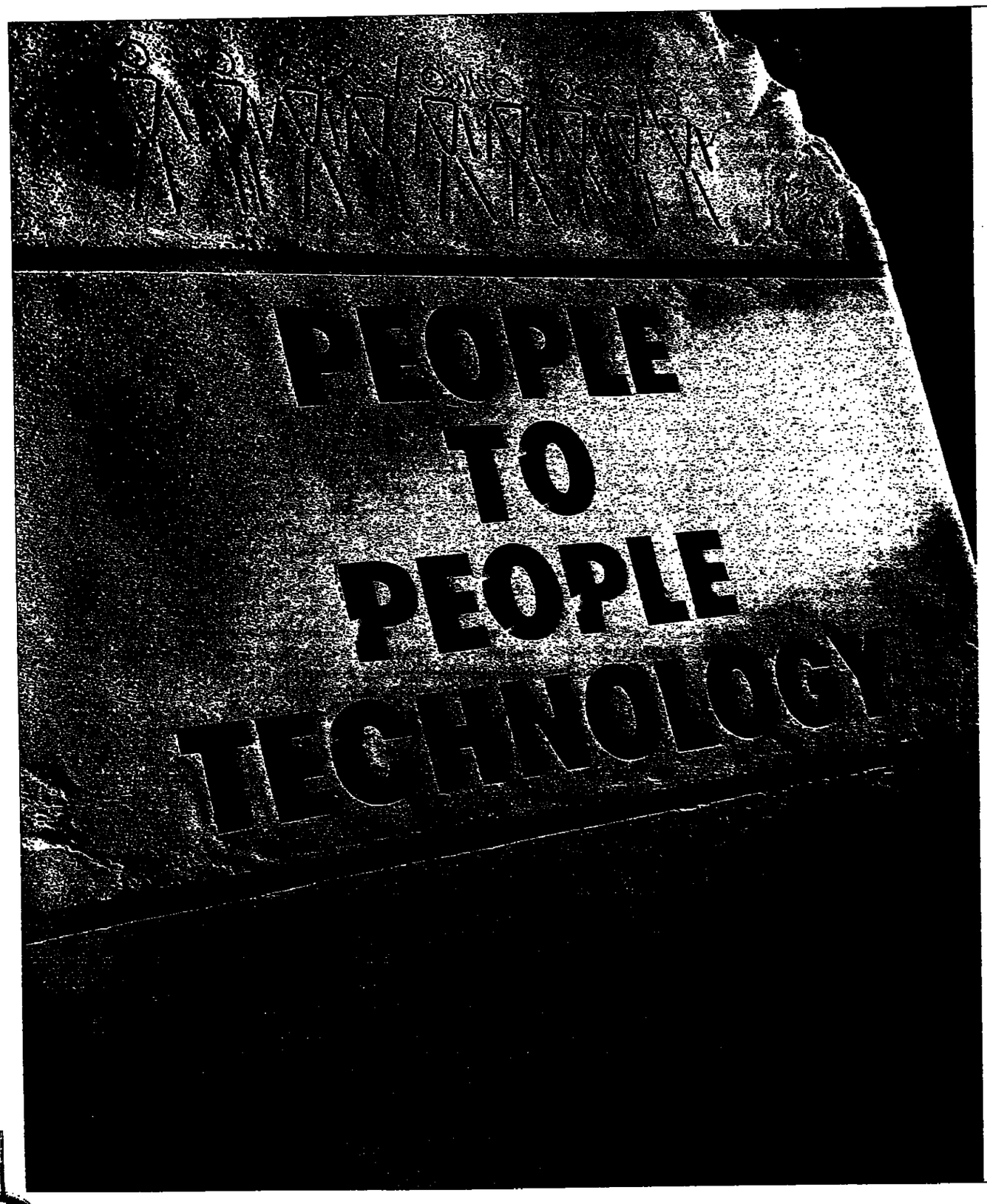
Useless WWW Pages
http://www.primus.com/staff.paulp.useless.html
An assemblage of the worst designed or written pages on the Net. Good instruction on how not to do it.

Worst Web Pages
http://turnpike.net/metro/mirsky/Worst.html
Same as Useless WWW Pages.

Cool Site of the Day
http://www.infi.net/cool.html
Glenn Davis has made a name for himself by selecting a new site each day that he feels exemplifies the best of the next in terms of originality of design and content. Spider's Pick of the Day (http://miso.wwa.com/~boba/spider1.html) is another. **S.V.B.**







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THE WORLD'S DAILY NEWSPAPER

Warne Turns Semifinal

Spinner Stops West Indies' Victory Run

Reuters

WORLD CUP CRICKET

MOHALI, India — West Indies lost its last two wickets off the second and third balls of the final over Thursday to fall six runs short of victory against Australia in the World Cup semifinal.

Shane Warne had provoked a West Indies' batting collapse just when it seemed that the match had slipped beyond Australia's grasp.

Australia batted first and made a meager 207 runs for eight wickets. In reply, West Indies crumbled from 165 for two to 202 all out with three balls of its 50 overs remaining.

Warne finished with four wickets for 36 runs. Australia's success in a pulsating match put it into the final Sunday against Sri Lanka in Lahore, Pakistan.

A stylish 80 from Shivnarine Chanderpaul seemed to have set West Indies coasting to an easy victory. But after he was dismissed, panic took over and West Indies' last eight wickets fell for 37 runs.

The winning captain, Mark Taylor, said: "They won the first 95 percent of the match and we won the last five."

"Unbelievable. We should have won," said Richie Richardson, who played his last match as West Indies' captain.

Australia batted first and was reduced to 15 for four by Curtly Ambrose and Ian Bishop, the West Indies pacemen.

Only a responsible and courageous fifth wicket partnership of 138 by Stuart Law and Michael Bevan gave Australia anywhere near a respectable total. Law hit five boundaries in scoring 72 before he was run out. Shortly afterward, Bevan hit a catch straight to Richardson after hitting a six and four fours in his 69.

It certainly did not appear to be enough as Brian Lara hit a brisk 45 and Chanderpaul played sensibly to keep the score moving. But then Chanderpaul lofted a catch to make it 165 for three and West Indies fell apart.

Eight runs later, Glenn McGrath, who had claimed Chanderpaul's wicket, struck again to trap Roger Harper for two. Then Taylor turned to Warne, who earlier in the innings had dismissed the opener Courtney Browne. The move met with immediate success as the all-rounder Ottis Gibson was caught by the wicketkeeper Ian Healy for one.

When Warne struck again, trapping Jimmy Adams, the panic was palpable.

The paceman Damien Fleming completed Keith Arthurton's miserable tournament by having him caught by Healy for zero, his third duck in five innings, and he managed only a single in each of the other two.

Warne took his fourth wicket when he dismissed Ian Bishop. Richardson watched the collapse from the other end, and he was several times fortunate to survive as he swung wildly at almost every delivery.

West Indies needed 10 runs off the last over, bowled by Fleming. Richardson clumped the first ball for four, but Ambrose was run out off the next and then Fleming bowled Courtney Walsh out on the first ball to end West Indies' innings.

David Gray/Reuters

Spinner Shane Warne celebrating after taking the wicket of Ian Bishop.

Chains That Bind A Cycling Family

By Samuel Abt
International Herald Tribune

MILLAU, France — Who was it who noticed "How sharper than a serpent's tooth it is to have a thankless child"? Not Jean-Jacques Vandenbroucke, a mechanic with the Lotto bicycle team. Not Jean-Luc Vandenbroucke, the team's *directeur sportif*.

It was King Lear, not the Brothers Vandenbroucke.

Last year, Franck Vandenbroucke, the bright young hope of Belgian bicycle racing quit their team. He left the father, Jean-Jacques, and uncle, Jean-Luc, who took him to races as a child and gave him his first bicycle and his first lessons in the sport; who nurtured him through the amateur ranks and signed him to his first professional contract and said the Lotto team would be structured around him.

Last year they called him "thankless," when he went to court in Belgium to break his contract with Lotto and, at 20, move to the Mapei team in Italy. "Thankless" was one of the gentler words last year.

"Our relations are good now," Franck Vandenbroucke said. "They weren't so great with Jean-Luc but now they're O.K. Now there are no problems." He looked over his shoulder as if afraid of being overheard and contradicted.

"It was impossible for me to work for my family," the rider continued in an interview during the Paris-Nice race, where he lies fifth overall. Winner of the esteemed Paris-Brussels race last season (in a Mapei jersey), he started this year with victory in the Tour of the Mediterranean.

He climbs strongly, he sprints adequately, he wins long, flat races like Paris-Brussels. No wonder Jean-Luc Vandenbroucke wanted to keep him with Lotto.

Thursday he finished with most of the other overall leaders in the fifth stage, a 159-kilometer (99-mile) spin out of and back into Millau. The winner, in windy and occasionally drizzly weather, was Stefano Casagranda, an Italian with the MG team who finished alone after a long breakaway..

Franck Vandenbroucke is straightforward in explaining his move from Lotto. "I would have signed originally with another team but the family asked me please to go with Lotto and it was only after I did that I realized it wasn't good for me," he said. "It was impossible to take orders from somebody in the family. I couldn't stand it."

"One thing is sure: He has a big talent," said Patrick Lefevere, the directeur sportif for Mapei in this race. "He's very, very strong. The only thing he doesn't have is a big physical frame but he's still young and has to be a bit patient. He's very impatient."

Lotto, Lefevere thought, was the wrong team for Vandenbroucke. "Not international enough. I don't think he can find a team better for him than ours.We have the money, we have a big organization, we have everything.

"We have 30 riders so we can give a young rider time to race when he wants to and then time to get some rest."

Over at the Lotto car, Jean-Luc Vandenbroucke, himself a fine rider a decade ago, agreed with Lefevere. "He's a super rider, a pure talent."

"Considering his age, if he finishes in the first five here, that will promise a lot for his future. If he handles it right, he can have a great career."

That was the objective analysis. The subjective one was more solemn.

"We don't talk much and it's not the same," he said. "I was very hurt and the whole thing left me feeling pretty bad. That's life.

"He chose his life, I chose mine. We carry the same name and that's about it."

A few minutes later, Franck Vandenbroucke rode by the Lotto car. Jean-Luc Vandenbroucke put up a hand. His nephew stopped.

They had a long conversation, the Mapei rider and the Lotto coach. From a distance they looked almost intimate.

Fergie Sutherland Finds a Champion and Becomes a Hero

By Ian Thomsen
International Herald Tribune

CHELTENHAM, England — Fergie Sutherland moved through the crowd on his one good leg with a look of stubborn relief. He had never liked the fuss, but then, he had never tried to win the most respected race in his profession, either.

Imperial Call won the Cheltenham Gold Cup and £200,000 ($305,000) Thursday for an owner Sutherland declined to identify. It is the key race in the national hunt festival, a midweek party brought to life each year by the 5,000 Irish who take the ferry over.

Sutherland, a 64-year-old Scot, trains his horses in Ireland, in the natural seclusion of his mother's old home. He moved there 27 years ago, and on Thursday, as if a curtain had been lifted from him, he became an adopted national treasure not unlike Jack Charlton, Ireland's former soccer manager. The 7-year-old was Ireland's first Gold Cup winner since 1986.

"I knew he had it in him when he was a 5-year-old," said the trainer, wearing a gray raincoat and a soft hat; a TV camera at his shoulder and dozens of the friends he never knew he had jostling behind him. Posed archly before them, Sutherland seemed very much the statue. "He had it quite easy in the end. He never made a mistake, jumped like a buck, and certainly enjoyed his afternoon, I think."

The 10-horse race had been, as expected, between the English-trained favorite One Man and Imperial Call. One Man, a rare gray, had been raised to become the next star of jump racing. He had won 10 of his last 11 races and was alongside Imperial Call and rider Conor O'Dwyre approaching the last two of the 22 fences on this famously undulating course of 3¼ miles.

Who knows what Sutherland was thinking; surely most of the 55,000 here were anticipating that One Man would surge ahead. He was supposed to be racing against the likes of Arkle and Desert Orchid, the all-time greats. He was supposed to become the first Gold Cup champion among the nearly 2,000 winners trained by the 66-year-old Englishman Gordon Richards. Then up came an Irish roar, louder than a minority opinion.

"He just got very, very tired," said One Man's jockey, Richard Dunwoody, who is probably the world's best. "If he hadn't been third at the time I probably would have pulled him up."

One Man finished sixth, becoming the 16th consecutive favorite to lose at the Cheltenham festival. In the Gold Cup, no big favorite has succeeded since Arkle in 1966.

Imperial Call won at 9-2, withstanding a late challenge by Rough Quest.

"He put them in their place today and he's improving every day," said Sutherland, having seen Imperial Call become a potential star in winning the Hennessy Gold Cup last month. "I haven't been to Cheltenham for 30 years, and this is the only way to come back."

Sutherland, who was educated at Eton College, lost his leg in a booby trap while in the army in 1952. He had switched regiments to the 5th Dragoon Guards to fight in the Korean War. His friends say the disability hardly bothered him. Until five years ago, he would arrive for weekends with three spare legs: one for riding, one for shooting and the other for dancing.

For years he had sold off any horse that might have become Imperial Call. This one, trained like all the others in the fine quiet hills of the River Lee near County Cork, has satisfied an itch he never knew he had, or refused to recognize. Even then, he had refused to join the crowds here until Thursday, preferring to watch the first two days on TV in his hotel room.

"I don't want to go spivving about, bumping into people every five yards," he said: A good-natured grump, and a hero across the Irish Sea.

SCOREBOARD

BASKETBALL

NBA Standings

EASTERN CONFERENCE

ATLANTIC DIVISION

	W	L	Pct	GB
Orlando	47	17	.734	—
New York	36	26	.581	10
Miami	31	32	.492	15½
Washington	28	35	.444	18½
New Jersey	25	36	.410	20½
Boston	24	39	.381	22½
Philadelphia	13	49	.210	33

CENTRAL DIVISION

x-Chicago	55	7	.887	—
Indiana	39	23	.629	16
Atlanta	35	27	.565	20
Detroit	35	27	.565	20
Cleveland	34	27	.557	20½
Charlotte	30	31	.492	24½
Milwaukee	21	40	.344	33½
Toronto	16	45	.262	38½

WESTERN CONFERENCE

MIDWEST DIVISION

	W	L	Pct	GB
San Antonio	43	18	.705	—
Utah	43	19	.694	½
Houston	41	22	.651	3
Denver	27	35	.435	16½
Dallas	21	41	.339	22½
Minnesota	19	43	.306	24½
Vancouver	11	49	.183	31½

PACIFIC DIVISION

x-Seattle	48	14	.774	—
L.A. Lakers	38	22	.633	9
Phoenix	31	32	.492	17½
Portland	29	34	.460	19½
Sacramento	28	33	.459	19½
Golden State	26	35	.444	20½
L.A. Clippers	22	40	.355	26

x-clinched playoff spot

WEDNESDAY'S RESULTS

Philadelphia 24 31 24 21—100
Boston 27 29 23 31—110
P: Maxwell 5-19 7-10 21; Stackhouse 11-22 6-9 28. B: Fox 8-11 2-5 21; Wesley 5-14 7-7 20; Day 7-21 6-7 22. Rebounds— Philadelphia 58 (Mackey 14), Boston 60 (Mantiress, Minor 9). Assists— Philadelphia 18 (Maxwell 8), Boston 19 (Wesley 8).

Utah 18 23 22 22— 85
Charlotte 28 26 18 19— 91
U: Malone 7-17 6-11 20; Hornacek 8-15 0-0 18. C: Johnson 8-17 4-8 22; Rice 6-9 0-3 13. Rebounds— Utah 48 (Malone 12), Charlotte 53 (Geiger 12). Assists— Utah 27 (Stockton 17), Charlotte 28 (Johnson 8).

Phoenix 28 31 23 33—115
Detroit 29 30 21 38—118
P: Barkley 17-29 6-6 45; Finley 8-16 3-4 21; Johnson 10-24 4-5 25. D: Thorpe 8-12 7-8 23; Houston 10-17 4-4 30; Dumars 8-14 4-4 24. Rebounds— Phoenix 44 (Barkley 11), Detroit 42 (Hill 17). Assists— Phoenix 25 (Johnson 12), Detroit 29 (Hill 11).

Washington 21 24 22 19— 86
Chicago 29 22 34 18—103
W: Howard 7-16 3-6 17; Muresan 8-17 1-2 17. C: Kukoc 6-10 4-4 16; Jordan 12-25 11-12 37. Rebounds— Washington 42 (Muresan 9), Chicago 55 (Rodman 14). Assists— Washington 17 (B.Price 7), Chicago 18 (Jordan 5).

New York 25 32 28 21—106
Minnesota 14 31 19 16— 82
N.Y.: Ewing 7-9 7-7 21; Starks 8-15 2-6 20. M: Garnett 9-21 5-6 23; Mitchell 5-7 4-5 14. Rebounds— New York 55 (Mason 20), Minnesota 50 (Garnett 9). Assists— New York 30 (Harper 7), Minnesota 29 (Porter 9).

Orlando 25 31 27 16— 99
Seattle 27 26 24 23—100
O: O'Neal 9-20 2-6 20; Hardaway 7-15 8-8 22. S: Schrempf 7-13 5-12 20; Payton 9-15 1-1 23. Rebounds— Orlando 57 (O'Neal 11), Seattle 46 (Kemp 12). Assists— Orlando 23 (Anderson 6), Seattle 26 (Kemp 8).

Milwaukee 26 22 27 20— 95
Sacramento 23 31 25 25—104
M: Robinson 8-18 8-10 25; Baker 7-18 5-6 19. S: Grant 8-16 4-6 21; Richmond 8-17 7-8 25. Rebounds— Milwaukee 51 (Benjamin 18), Sacramento 60 (Smith 11). Assists— Milwaukee 19 (Douglas 7), Sacramento 21 (Hurley 6).

NIT Results

FIRST ROUND

WEDNESDAY'S GAMES

Rhode Island 82, Marist 77
College of Charleston 55, Tennessee 49
South Carolina 100, Davidson 73
Michigan St. 64, Washington 50
Minnesota 68, Saint Louis 52
Missouri 89, Murray St. 85
Illinois St. 73, Mount St. Mary's, Md. 49
Wisconsin 55, Manhattan 42
Tulane 87, Auburn 73, OT
Vanderbilt 86, Arkansas-Little Rock 80
Alabama 72, Illinois 69
Fresno St. 58, Miami, Ohio 57

KORAC CUP

FINAL, SECOND LEG

Stefanel Milan 77, Efes Pilsen Istanbul 70 (Istanbul won 146-145 on aggregate).

HOCKEY

NHL Standings

EASTERN CONFERENCE

ATLANTIC DIVISION

	W	L	T	Pts	GF	GA
N.Y. Rangers	36	18	14	86	239	189
Florida	35	24	9	79	224	200
Philadelphia	32	21	13	77	221	179
Tampa Bay	32	25	10	74	203	202
New Jersey	31	25	11	73	176	160
Washington	32	27	8	72	191	174
N.Y. Islanders	20	38	8	48	195	256

NORTHEAST DIVISION

Pittsburgh	40	23	4	84	302	231
Montreal	32	27	8	72	218	207
Boston	30	28	8	68	225	225
Hartford	28	31	7	63	198	215
Buffalo	27	33	7	61	200	209
Ottawa	13	50	3	29	154	246

WESTERN CONFERENCE

CENTRAL DIVISION

	W	L	T	Pts	GF	GA
x-Detroit	51	12	4	106	259	148
Chicago	34	23	11	79	229	185
St. Louis	29	26	12	70	184	192
Toronto	26	31	12	64	200	214
Winnipeg	29	34	5	63	222	249
Dallas	22	33	12	56	193	226

PACIFIC DIVISION

Colorado	38	21	10	86	269	201
Vancouver	27	26	15	69	243	234
Calgary	27	29	11	65	202	201
Anaheim	26	36	6	58	190	215
Los Angeles	21	34	15	57	221	258
Edmonton	24	36	7	55	192	251
San Jose	16	47	6	38	214	300

x-clinched playoff spot

WEDNESDAY'S RESULTS

Pittsburgh 0 2 0—2
Hartford 0 2 1—3
First Period—None. Second Period: P-Lemieux 56 (Francis, Mironov) (pp). 2. H-Brown 7 (Daniels, Janssens). 3. H- Rice 9 (Sanderson, Featherstone). 4. P-Murray 11 (Savelinski, Leroux). Third Period: H-Shanahan 35 (O'Neill, Wesley). Shots on goal: P- 14-7-9—30. H- 8-14-11—33. Goalies: P-Barrasso. H-Burke.

Dallas 0 0 1—1
Ottawa 3 0 1—4
First Period: O-Chorske 11 (Bonk, Hill). 2. O-Archibald 4 (Hill). 3. O-Alfredsson 21 (Picard, Duchesne) (pp). Second Period—None. Third Period: O-Yashin 10 (Loukkanen). 5. D- Donnelly 2 (Huard). Shots on goal: D- 6-8-9—23. O- 11-6-5—22. Goalies: D-Moog, Wakaluk. O-Rhodes.

Montreal 0 0 1 0—1
New Jersey 0 0 1 0—1
First Period—None. Second Period—None. Third Period: N.J.-Carpenter 4 (Richer). 2. M-Bure 17 (Damphousse, Quinlan). Overtime—None. Shots on goal: M-12-8-8-0—28. N.J.-9-17-8-2—36. Goalies: M-Thibault. N.J.-Brodeur.

Winnipeg 2 0 1 0—3
Toronto 2 1 0 0—3
First Period: W-Tkachuk 42 (Tverdovsky) (pp). 2. T-Andreychuk 19 (Murphy, Gilmour) (pp). 3. W- Eastwood 11 (Shannon, Numminen). 4. T-Gilmour 25 (Andreychuk, Pressley). Second Period: T-Andreychuk 20 (Yushkevich, Ellett) (pp). Third Period: W-Eastwood 12 (Thompson, Drake). Overtime—None. Shots on goal: W- 12-8-11-1—32. T- 6-9-9-3—27. Goalies: W-Khabibulin. T-Potvin.

Florida 0 2 1 0—3
N.Y. Rangers 1 1 1 0—3
First Period: New York, Momesso 10 (Robitaille, Samuelsson). Second Period: F-Gorpenlov 18 (Woolley, Svehla) (pp). 3. New York, Gemander 2 (Graves, Messier) (pp). 4. F-Svehla 7 (Gorpenlov, Niedermayer) (pp). Third Period: New York, Ferraro 25 (Robitaille, Momesso). 6. F-Gorpenlov 19 (Woolley, Smith) (pp). Overtime—None. Shots on goal: F- 7-11-13-4—35. New York 7-9-13-0—29. Goalies: F-Vanbiesbrouck, New York, Healy.

Tampa Bay 0 1 0 0—1
Philadelphia 0 1 0 0—1
First Period—None. Second Period: T-Burr 12 (Gratton, Hamrlik). 2. P-Brind'Amour 19 (Faltaous, Heller) (pp). Third Period—None. Overtime—None. Shots on goal: T- 9-7-6-2—24. P- 7-21-12-3—43. Goalies: T-Puppa. P-Hedadl.

Edmonton 4 3 1—8
San Jose 0 1 1 2—3
First Period: E-Arnott 21 (McAmmond, Ciarkowski). 2. E-Roberts 2 (Marchant, Oliver). 3. E- McAmmond 11 (Czerkowski, Arnott). 4. E-Thornton 9 (Smyth). Second Period: E-Oliver 18 (Marchant, Roberts). 6. S.J.-Sheppard 29 (Bodger, Janney). 7. E-Czerkowski 12 (Dufresne). 8. E-Oliver 19 (Arnott, Roberts). Third Period: S.J.-Nolan 28 (Racine, Ragnarsson) (pp). 10. E-Cliger 28 (Satan, Weight). 11. S.J.-. Nolan 29 (Tancil, Janney). Shots on goal: E- 15-5-6—26. S.J.-8-10-12—30. Goalies: E-Joseph. S.J.-Terreri.

Buffalo 1 2 3—6
Los Angeles 2 0 0—2
First Period: L.A.-Kurri 17 (Johnson, Shuchuk). 2. B-Dawe 16 (LaFontaine, May). 3. L.A.- Johnson 10 (Kurri). Second Period: B-Plante 18 (Wilson). 5. B- Khmylev 8 (Plante, LaFontaine) (pp). Third Period: B-Hughes 4 (Ray, LaFontaine). 7. B-Shannon 4 (Plante). 8. B-Zhitnik 6 (Galley, LaFontaine) (pp). Shots on goal: B- 11-11-10—32. L.A.- 8-9-12—29. Goalies: B-Hasek. L.A.-Defoe.

Colorado 0 0 0—0
Anaheim 1 2 1—4
First Period: A-Karpov 5 (J.Sacco, Ruchin). Second Period: A-Karpov 6 (Ruchin, Olausson). 3. A-Valk 9 (Selonne, Jamphe). Third Period: A-Ruchin 16 (Kariya) (sh). Shots on goal: Colorado 11-7-9—27. A-10-9-10—29. Goalies: Colorado, Roy. A-Hebert.

Bud Sports Notes

MARCH 15, 1968

LONG JUMPER BOB BEAMON SOARS TO AN INDOOR RECORD OF 27'2¾". BUT BOB WAS JUST WARMING UP. SIX MONTHS LATER IN THE MEXICO CITY OLYMPICS, BEAMON SPRINGS 29'2½" TO SHATTER THE WORLD RECORD, AND MAKE 1968 A LEAP YEAR TO REMEMBER.

All natural, beechwood aged.
This Bud's for you.

SOCCER

DUTCH FIRST DIVISION

GAE Deventer 4, De Graafschap Doetin. 0
Willem II Tilburg 1, NAC Breda 3
Fortuna Sittard 1, Ajax Amsterdam 2

STANDINGS: Ajax Amsterdam 62, PSV Eindhoven 60, Feyenoord Rotterdam 43, Sparta Rotterdam 41, Vitesse Arnhem 39, NAC Breda 39, Heerenveen 37, Willem II Tilburg 36, Groningen 32, Roda JC Kerkrade 31, RKC Waalwijk 31, Twente Enschede 29, Fortuna Sittard 23, Go Ahead Eagles Deventer 19, De Graafschap Doetinchem 19, NEC Nijmegen 19, Utrecht 16, Volendam 14.

ENGLISH PREMIER LEAGUE

Blackburn 1, Leeds 0
Liverpool 2, Wimbledon 2

STANDINGS: Newcastle 61, Manchester United 60, Liverpool 56, Aston Villa 55, Arsenal 48, Tottenham 48, Everton 47, Blackburn 45, Chelsea 44, Nottingham Forest 43, West Ham 42, Leeds 38, Middlesbrough 34, Sheffield Wednesday 29, Wimbledon 27, Coventry 27, Manchester City 27, Southampton 25, Queens Park Rangers 22, Bolton 19.

ENGLISH F.A. CUP

QUARTERFINAL

Nottingham Forest 0, Aston Villa 1

ROMANIA'S CUP

QUARTERFINALS

Steaua Bucharest 1, Dinamo Bucharest 1
National Bucharest 4, Petrolul Ploiesti 2
Gloria Bistrita 2, Farul Constanta 1
Inter Sibiu 5, Arges Dacia Pitesti 4

LIBERTADORES CUP

FIRST ROUND

Barcelona 3, Espoli 2
Olimpia 1, Canto Portena 2
San Jose 2, Guabira 1
Junior Barranquilla 1, America 0
Corinthians 3, Botafogo 0
Universidad Chile 2, Universidad Catolica 0
San Lorenzo 1, River Plate 1
Minerven 4, Caracas FC 2
Universitario 2, Sporting Cristal 0

INTERNATIONAL FRIENDLY

Croatia 3, South Korea 0
Luxembourg 1, Switzerland 1

BASEBALL

EXHIBITION RESULTS

WEDNESDAY'S GAMES

Kansas City 3, Houston 2
Atlanta 8, Florida 1
Toronto (ss) 8, Detroit (ss) 3
Texas 9, Minnesota 1
St. Louis 7, Philadelphia 0
Boston 9, Pittsburgh 3
Baltimore (ss) 2, Montreal (ss) 2, 10 innings
Cleveland 5, N.Y. Yankees 2
N.Y. Mets 10, Los Angeles 5
Chicago White Sox 10, Toronto (ss) 2
Chicago Cubs 14, Colorado 7, rain, 7 Inn.
Oakland (ss) 6, Milwaukee 5, rain, 5 Inn.
Oakland (ss) 9, San Fran. (ss) 0, rain, 5 Inn.
San Diego (ss) 7, San Francisco (ss) 6
Detroit (ss) 3, Cincinnati 2
Baltimore (ss) 10, Montreal (ss) 1

CRICKET

WORLD CUP RESULTS

SEMIFINAL

AUSTRALIA VS. WEST INDIES
THURSDAY, IN MOHALI, INDIA

Australia Innings: 207-8 (50 overs)
West Indies Innings: 202 (all out, 49.3 overs)
Result: Australia won by 5 runs.

CYCLING

PARIS-NICE RACE

Leading placings in the 182.5 fifth stage circuit of the Paris to Nice race on Thursday: 1, Stefano Casagranda, Italy, MG Technogym, four hours two minutes and 49 seconds; 2, Laurent Jalabert, France, ONCE, 27 seconds behind; 3, Frederic Moncassin, France, GAN, same time; 4, Carlo Bomans, Belgium, Mapei, s.t.; 5, Bruno Boscardin, Italy, Festina, s.t.; 6, Laurent Brochard, France, Festina, s.t.; 7, Andrei Tchmil, Ukraine, Lotto, s.t.; 8, Jon Odriozola, Italy, Gewiss, s.t.; 9, Lance Armstrong, U.S., Motorola, s.t.; 10, Cedric Vasseur, France, GAN, s.t.

Overall standings (after five stages): 1, Jalabert 21 hours 40 minutes and 27 seconds; 2, Armstrong 43 seconds behind; 3, Luc Leblanc, France, Polti, 1:06 seconds; 4, Chris Boardman, Britain, GAN, 1:17; 5, Franck Vandenbroucke, Belgium, Mapei, same time; 6, Brochard 1:28; 7, Inigo Cuesta, Spain, ONCE, 1:33; 8, Laurent Madouas, France, Motorola, 1:43; 9, Andrea Peron, Italy, Motorola, 1:58; 10, Tchmil 2:06.

TENNIS

EVERT CUP

QUARTERFINALS

Kimiko Date (4), Japan, def. Nathalie Tauziat (13), France, 6-7 (2-7), 6-3, 6-3; Conchita Martinez (2), Spain, def. Lindsay Lee, U.S., 7-5, 6-2; Lindsay Davenport (7), U.S., def. Chanda Rubin (5), U.S., 6-0, 6-3.

TRANSITIONS

BASEBALL

AMERICAN LEAGUE

BALTIMORE—Traded Sherman Obando, outfielder, to Montreal for Tony Tarasco, outfielder.

CHICAGO—Optioned Julio Vinas, catcher, and Steve Schrenk, pitcher, to Nashville, AA., and Brian Woods, pitcher, and Jimmy Hurst, outfielder, to Birmingham, SL. Reassigned Steve Worrell, pitcher; Mark Johnson, catcher; Craig Wilson, infielder, and Jeff Abbott, Brian Simmons, Ryan Topham, and Kerry Valrie, outfielders, to their minor-league camps.

CLEVELAND—Traded Scott Pose, outfielder, to Toronto for Joe Lis, infielder.

DETROIT—Claimed Kimera Bartee, outfielder, off waivers from Baltimore.

SEATTLE—Extended contract of Lou Piniella, manager, for 4 years through the 2000 season.

TEXAS—Optioned Julio Santana, pitcher, to Oklahoma City, AA.

TORONTO—Sent D.J. Boston, 1st baseman Tom Evans, 3d baseman Angel Ramirez, outfielder and Mark Sievert and Mike Gordon, pitchers, to Syracuse, IL.

NATIONAL LEAGUE

CINCINNATI—Reassigned Gene Harris, Scott Sullivan and Gabe White, pitchers; Chat Mattola, outfielder; and Tim Belk, 1st baseman, to their minor-league camp.

MONTREAL—Signed Randell White, outfielder, to 5-year contract.

PHILADELPHIA—Put B.J. Wallace, pitcher on waivers for the purpose of giving him his unconditional release. Promoted Kelly Heath, infield-hitting coach, from Martinsville, Appalachian League to Reading, EL.

BASKETBALL

NATIONAL BASKETBALL ASSOCIATION

NBA—Fined Minnesota guard Isaiah Rider $5,000 for failing to leave the court in a timely fashion following his ejection in a March 10 game.

FOOTBALL

NATIONAL FOOTBALL LEAGUE

BALTIMORE—Named Ozzie Newsome director of football operations. Acquired Jeff Blackshear, offensive lineman, from the Seattle for a 1997 fourth-round choice.

CAROLINA—Signed Kelly Stouffer, quarterback, and Michael Bates, wide receiver.

CINCINNATI—Agreed to terms with Ricardo McDonald, linebacker, on a two-year contract.

DALLAS—Signed Fred Strickland, linebacker, to 2-year contract.

DETROIT—Signed Ray Roberts, offensive lineman. Released Tracy Heyworth, linebacker, and David Lutz, guard.

GREEN BAY—Announced they won't match the Miami Dolphins' offer sheet to Charles Jordan, wide receiver.

JACKSONVILLE—Claimed Natrone Means, running back, off waivers from San Diego. Signed Dana Hall, safety.

KANSAS CITY—Announced the retirement of Ronnie Lott, safety. Signed Bucky Richardson, quarterback, to 2-year contract.

MIAMI—Signed Keith Sims, guard, to a 5-year contract. Signed Fred Barnett, wide receiver, to 5-year contract.

NEW ENGLAND—Agreed to terms with Shawn Jefferson, wide receiver, and Willie Clay, safety, on 4-year contracts.

NEW ORLEANS—Signed Darren Mickell, defensive end, to 3-year contract.

NEW YORK—Traded Marcus Turner, defensive back, to Green Bay for a conditional 1997 draft choice.

OAKLAND—Signed Lorenzo Lynch, safety.

ST. LOUIS—Released Chris Miller, quarterback.

SAN DIEGO—Signed Werner Hippler, tight end.

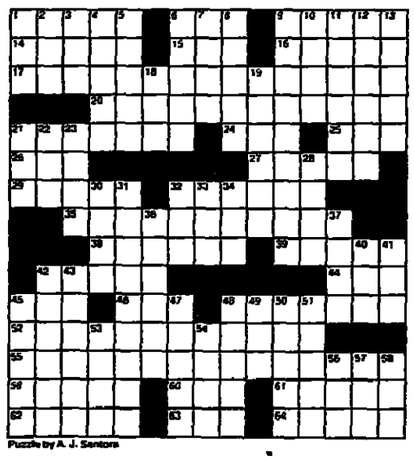
CROSSWORD

ACROSS

1 Queen Bilqis's land
6 Went for
9 Demean
14 Gold
15 Chemical prefix
16 Actress Thompson et al
17 *What tots did in the malt shop?*
20 Auto item with rubber flanges
21 Best-furnished
24 ——Cat (winter vehicle)
25 Application datum
26 Word to a doctor
27 *Training system originated in Sweden*
29 Sill cover
32 Walk-ons
35 Braced for a roller coaster ride
36 Comes down somewhat hard?
39 Lout
42 Overpamper
44 Prefix with 25-Across
45 Part of a "fully loaded" car
46 Powerful D.C. lobby
48 Good tidings
52 Not the independent sort
55 Shook hands?
59 Month in Managua
60 Tony-winning actress Saloniga
61 *North of Virginia*
62 Deceived
63 Opposite of lack
64 Paintbrush material

DOWN

1 Decline
2 Wallace's "Ben-——"
3 Oxydol competitor
4 *St. Louis's* - - - Stadium
5 Copious
6 "—— I" (1970 gold record)
7 Car-racing org
8 Southey's "Rodenick, the Last of the ——"
9 Dixon line
10 M.T.A. Boston : ——; San Francisco
11 Fresh as ——
12 Went ballistic
13 20's auto
18 Danger for a U-Boot
19 Judo instructor
21 Cape Canaveral site
22 Row
23 Bygone leader
28 Part of the Labor Dept.
30 Foreign money
31 "*Prelude to a Kiss*" composer
32 TV producer Fred
33 Symbol of industry
34 Hood and others Abbr.
36 Texas city on the Mexican border
37 Hood
40 *Identical*
41 Shortening
42 Water-soluble gas
43 Ready to go
45 Gradually increasing in speed, *in mus.*
47 White, in a way
48 Water choice
49 Bigwig
50 Cooperstown's Cap ——
51 Just
53 Sleuth Wolfe
54 Increased
56 Afflicted
57 *Madre's hermano*
58 Poultry buy



Puzzle by A. J. Santora

© New York Times/Edited by Will Shortz

Solution to Puzzle of March 14

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C	O	M	E	T		W	I	P	E		D	A	R	E
A	R	I		E	D	I	T	O	R	S		S	O	X
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F	L	I	C	K	S		E	N	T	E	R			
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E	G	G			S	T	E	P	S		D	E	E	R

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SPORTS

WORLD ROUNDUP

Gil Causes Alarm

SOCCER The Spanish Football Federation has begun disciplinary proceedings for causing "social alarm" against Jesús Gil, the Atletico Madrid president, who was involved in a fistfight with José Fidalgo, a director of the Compostela club, and had heated argument with Compostela's president at a meeting of league directors in Madrid last week.

• Ataulfo Valencia, a defender with Espoli of Ecuador, was ejected from the field for punching the driver of a motorized trolley that collided with him when it drove onto the field to carry off an injured player in Espoli's South American Libertadores Cup game with Barcelona, another Ecuadoran team. *(Reuters)*

Disney Won't Buy Angels

BASEBALL Walt Disney's proposal to buy controlling interest in the California Angels collapsed when the entertainment giant abandoned negotiations with the city over renovations to Anaheim Stadium.

"This deal is over," said Tony Tavares, the president of Disney Sports Enterprises. "The negotiations have ended."

James D. Ruth, Anaheim's city manager, said the two most important differences were the city's desire to bring an NFL team to Anaheim and its proposal to build a *sports, entertainment and retail* complex around the stadium called Sportstown Anaheim. *(LAT)*

IAAF Offers Free TV

ATHLETICS The International Amateur Athletic Federation, unable to secure a global television deal for its events, said Thursday it would produce its own broadcasts for next week's world cross-country championships in Cape Town.

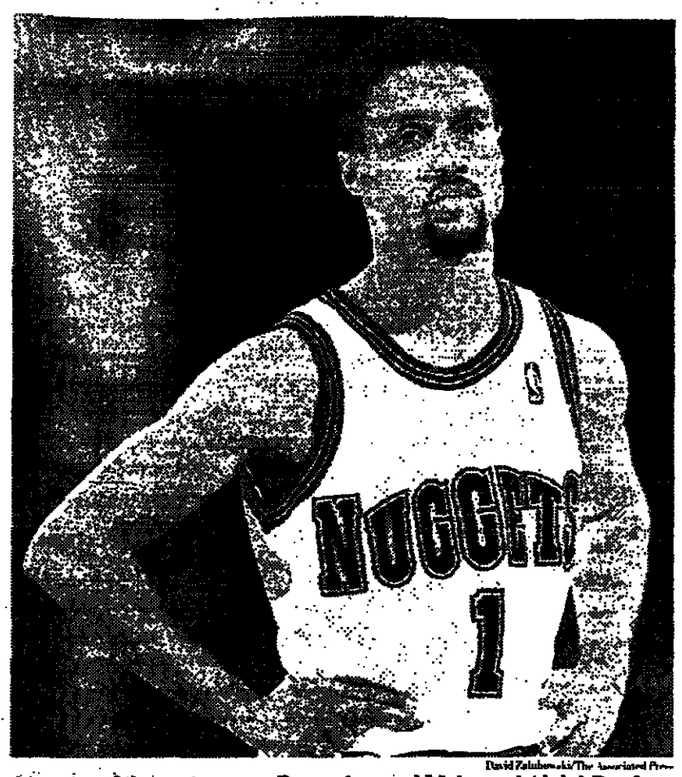
The IAAF, whose negotiations with the European Broadcasting Union for a a four-year rights deal are deadlocked, said it would provide free television. *(Reuters)*

Muster Falls to Voinea

TENNIS Two days after regaining the world No. 1 spot, Thomas Muster lost his first match in the Newsweek Champions Cup at Indian Wells, California, 6-3, 7-5, to Adrian Voinea of Romania. *(Reuters)*

Mark J. Terrill/AP

Thomas Muster protesting a call. He lost to Adrian Voinea.



David Zalubowski/The Associated Press

At center of the controversy, Denver's guard Mahmoud Abdul-Rauf.

Will Abdul-Rauf Stand Up and Pray?

Compiled by Our Staff From Dispatches

Mahmoud Abdul-Rauf of the Denver *Nuggets and the National* Basketball Association are reportedly discussing a solution to their dispute over the player's refusal to stand for national anthems before games because of his religious beliefs. The NBA had suspended him indefinitely and without pay.

ESPN, the sports television channel, said it would broadcast a taped interview Thursday afternoon with Abdul-Rauf in which he said he would stand and pray during the anthem.

On Wednesday, Abdul-Rauf issued a statement, which read in part: "My intentions were not in any way to be disrespectful to those who regard the national anthem as a sacred ceremony. I am an African-American, a citizen of this country, and one who respects freedom of speech and freedom of expression."

At issue is a clause in league rules that says: "Players, coaches and trainers are to stand and line up in a dignified posture along the sidelines or the foul line during the playing of the national anthem."

The position of the league is that there is a standard clause in player contracts that stipulates a player must agree to abide by NBA rules, a position disputed by the players' association.

"The position of the players' association is that that is a policy statement of the NBA that has never been negotiated by the players' association, that is therefore not contained in individual player contracts," said Jim Quinn, the outside lawyer for the players' association.

A grievance from the players' union, which was also involved in Thursday's discussions, on Abdul-Rauf's behalf appeared to be a possible next step.

The Nuggets approached the league a few weeks ago with the issue, inquiring what the rule was and how to deal with it. They asked for, and were given, time to work it out with Abdul-Rauf.

The issue did not become public until last week, when first radio then newspapers picked up on the story.

"I don't think Mahmoud will stand for the anthem," said Keith Glass, an agent who represents Abdul-Rauf. "Whether I, you, or someone else likes it is not the issue. Clearly, he's been damaged. Not just financially, but his reputation, as well. And it's going to haunt him until people understand how he's feeling." Abdul-Rauf, the former Chris Jackson, converted to Islam in 1991.

The league apparently went ahead with the suspension without notifying the players' association. At one point, Abdul-Rauf was given the option of staying in the dressing room or walkway *during the national anthem, but that is* no longer an option for his return.

■ Olajuwon Puzzled by Protest

The NBA's most prominent Muslim player seemed puzzled by the stand taken by Abdul-Rauf. Hakeem Olajuwon, the star center for Houston, said the Koran teaches respect for the customs and traditions in whichever country one lives.

"It's tough for me to understand his position," Olajuwon said, "but in general the Muslim teaching is to obey and respect. To be a good Muslim is to be a good citizen."

Nothing in Islamic teachings would bar standing during anthems or wearing the U.S. flag, as Olajuwon will do at the Olympics this summer, he said. "The difference must be distinguished between *worship and respect*," *he said.*

"Islam orders you to obey and respect, as long as you are not worshiping anything other than God. The Koran teaches respect for all people. That's why it's so important that people understand that there is a difference between respect and worship. People that worship the flag should also understand that there is a difference. Islam is a religion of peace. You don't attack. You explain." *(NYT, AP)*

Andreychuk Scores Last 2 For Toronto

The Associated Press

Soon after the Toronto Maple Leafs acquired Wendel Clark in a move to bring back happier times, Dave Andreychuk fell victim to the new realities of the National Hockey League.

Andreychuk scored two goals Wednesday night in a 3-3 tie with the Winnipeg Jets, giving him 468 in his 14-year career. But minutes after the game, Toronto's general manager, Cliff Fletcher, sent him to the New Jersey Devils for two draft picks.

NHL ROUNDUP

Fletcher's second major deal of the day was caused by the first. After acquiring Clark and the All-Star defenseman Mathieu Schneider from the New York Islanders, he needed to clear salary room.

Andreychuk, whose goals gave him only 20 in 61 games, was a prime prospect to be traded.

Andreychuk left Toronto on the heels of possibly his best game of the season. He also added an assist for the Maple Leafs, who are 1-8-2 in their last 11 games and seventh in the Western Conference with 64 points.

Whalers 3, Penguins 2 Pittsburgh is only two points behind the New York Rangers for first in the Eastern Conference, but the Penguins' troubles on the road continued.

They fell to 14-16-4 away from home when Brendan Shanahan scored his 35th goal of the season with 44 seconds remaining for Hartford.

Mighty Ducks 4, Avalanche 0 Anaheim's goaltender, Guy Hebert, made 27 saves for the shutout despite getting into a fight with Patrick Roy, the goalie he worshipped as a kid.

Roy joined a fight in the second period with his team trailing 3-0, and Hebert followed soon after. Hebert was greeted by a jab to the face from Roy.

Rangers 3, Panthers 3 New York's home winless streak reached seven. The Rangers have not won at Madison Square Garden since Feb. 15, when they tied a club record with a 24-game home unbeaten streak.

Johan Garpenlov's second goal of the game with 1:45 remaining helped struggling Florida rebound from three one-goal deficits.

Senators 4, Stars 1 Ottawa ended a seven-game losing streak by taking a 3-0 first-period lead. Damian Rhodes' bid for his first NHL shutout in 69 games was spoiled when Mike Donnelly scored for Dallas with 1:22 remaining.

Oilers 8, Sharks 3 David Oliver and Dave Roberts, college teammates at the University of Michigan who were reunited when Roberts was acquired from St. Louis on Tuesday, combined for three goals and three assists at San Jose.

Sabres 6, Kings 2 Buffalo snapped a four-game losing streak when Yuri Khmylev lifted a 10-foot rebound past goalie Byron Dafoe to break a 2-2 tie with 2:28 remaining in the second period at Los Angeles.

Devils 1, Canadiens 1 Valeri Bure scored on a rebound with 1:29 to play to give Montreal a tie at New Jersey, which extended its unbeaten streak to nine games (6-0-3).

Flyers 1, Lightning 1 Rod Brind'-Amour's wraparound goal in the second period snapped Philadelphia's 0-for-28 power play drought against visiting Tampa Bay.

Defying the Star-Spangled NBA

By Harvey Araton
New York Times Service

The global sports ambassadors of the National Basketball Association are wrapping themselves in red, white and blue. Their most popular and successful marketing campaign — "I Love This Game" — has been replaced by one with a more jingoistic edge.

"Love It or Leave It."

That, at least, is the unnecessarily confrontational message the NBA has sent to Mahmoud Abdul-Rauf, the shooting guard who has refused to stand for the national anthem before his games with the Denver Nuggets. As he explained, the American flag for him is a "symbol of oppression" that conflicts *with his personal and religious beliefs as* a devout Muslim.

This is a league that insists players, coaches and trainers "stand and line up in a dignified posture," while a renowned recording artist butchers the work of Francis Scott Key and fans yell "Dee-fense, dee-fense."

Rowdy fans aren't the only ones who treat the anthem as a pregame seventh-inning stretch. Parties proceed unimpeded in luxury suites. Sportswriters type on in press areas. And when the beloved anthem gets in the way of an NBA network telecast, o say, can you see how it conveniently is played 20 minutes earlier, when the arena is half-empty. That is how important it really is.

It is a tradition that is absolutely *idiotic in today's world, as opposed to* when it began, before baseball games during World War II. Nobody goes to a sporting event to make an expression of patriotism. We don't stand and line up in a dignified posture before we see a Broadway play, or "Dead Man Walking."

"The rule on this point is very clear," said Russ Granik, the NBA's deputy commissioner, in announcing the suspension of Abdul-Rauf. "All our rules *apply equally to all our players.*"

Of course they do. We saw that last spring, when Michael Jordan defied the NBA's policy of allowing players to change their jersey numbers only before the start of a season. Jordan played on, naturally, to magnificent playoff ratings. The league fined the Chicago Bulls the sports franchise equivalent of a commuter's morning bus fare, and Jordan laughed all the way to his next commercial shoot.

Nor did it seem to bother the NBA when Jordan, Charles Barkley and other Republic of Nike pitchmen shamelessly used the flag to cover competing corporate logos on the Olympic medal stand in Barcelona four years ago. Guess that was just good business judgment.

Abdul-Rauf is no superstar, and apparently intended to be no one's problem while staying in the locker room or in the tunnel leading to the court for the anthem for most of the season. The NBA didn't know or didn't care, until the subject hit Denver sports talk radio and the lines of patriotic protest began to light up.

Abdul-Rauf knows he is going to be a target now, and it will be much worse than the heartless derision he has put up *with while battling the obvious effects* of Tourette's Syndrome. He must be committed to this belief. He is not hurting anyone, so he is entitled to that.

The players' association supported Abdul-Rauf on Wednesday, and his agent said a lawsuit is likely if the NBA doesn't back down. The league could be headed for dangerous legal waters. And for what, the anthem or its rule? Neither of these issues is big enough to suspend this man for believing what he does.

Sonics Edge Magic, 100-99, and Clinch Playoff Berth

The Associated Press

The Seattle SuperSonics scored the final seven points of the game and defeated the Orlando Magic, 100-99, in a matchup of division leaders. With the victory, Seattle became the first Western Conference team to clinch a playoff spot.

NBA ROUNDUP

The Sonics made their comeback without their floor leader, Gary Payton, who was ejected with 8:46 left in the game for head-butting Joe Wolf after the two collided and went face-to-face in the lane.

Shaquille O'Neal's tip-in gave the Magic a 99-93 lead with 49.4 seconds left. Sam Perkins made a 3-pointer with 43.8 seconds left, making it 99-96.

After Nick Anderson's inbounds pass was stolen by Perkins, Hersey Hawkins made a layup with 34.9 seconds left. Dennis Scott missed a running shot from the lane and Eric Snow fed Detlef Schrempf for a 17-footer with 14.7 seconds left.

Payton led the Sonics with 23 points and Schrempf added 20.

Bulls 103, Bullets 86 The bad news for Chicago came before the game when they learned that Scottie Pippen will miss 10 to 14 days with a variety of injuries. Toni Kukoc replaced him in the starting lineup, and the Bulls didn't miss a beat, improving to 31-0 at home. Michael Jordan scored 37 points.

Pistons 118, Suns 115 In Auburn Hills, Michigan, Grant Hill had 18 points, 17 rebounds and 11 assists and Detroit overcame a season-high 45 points from Charles Barkley.

Hornets 91, Jazz 85 Charlotte knocked Utah out of a first-place tie in the Midwest Division, dropping the Jazz to a half-game behind San Antonio.

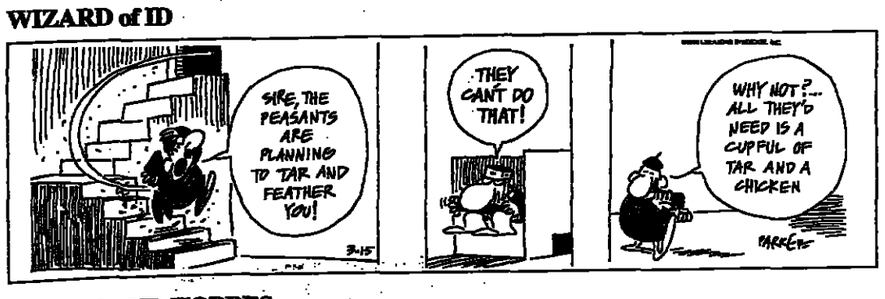
Knicks 106, Timberwolves 82 In Minneapolis, New York won its second in a row under a new coach, Jeff Van Gundy. Patrick Ewing scored 11 of his 21 points in the first five minutes of the second half when the Knicks broke the game open.

Kings 104, Bucks 95 In Sacramento, the Kings won their third in a row after losing 17 of 18.

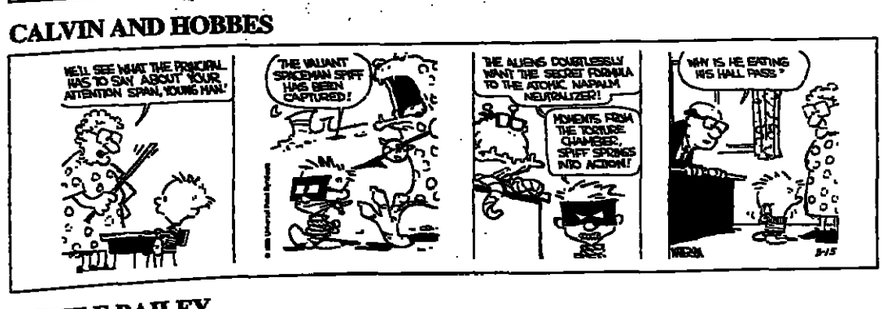
Celtics 110, 76ers 100 In Boston, Todd Day scored 23 points, Rick Fox 21 and David Wesley 20, and the Celtics scored 14 of the game's final 17 points.

DOONESBURY

WIZARD of ID



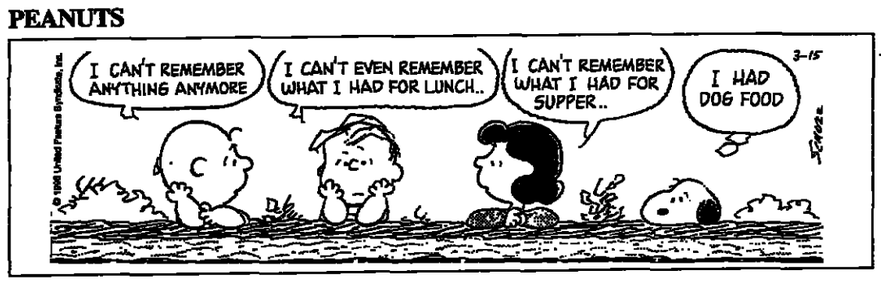
CALVIN AND HOBBES



BEETLE BAILEY

BLONDIE

PEANUTS



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TRINWY

VANDIE

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THE FAR SIDE

"You're gonna be OK, mister, but I can't say the same for your little buddy over there. _ The way I hear it, he's the one that mouthed off to them gunfighters in the first place."

OBSERVER

Pluto Plundered

By Russell Baker

NEW YORK — Pluto may not be a planet. Can you believe it? Is everything we learned in school a lie?

This Pluto business is the last straw in the duplicity and uselessness of education. Now I have to deal with Plutonic revisionism, and I haven't even recovered yet from the discovery that you should not eat a good breakfast.

"Always eat a good breakfast," That's what they taught us in school. They said it was good for us.

Well, you know it, I know it, we all know it: They were wrong. We now know a good breakfast is bad for you. Those eggs sunny side up, that crisp bacon, the butter-soaked toast covered with jelly — bad for you.

So now we always eat a bad breakfast because they say a bad breakfast is good for you.

□

The older you get the clearer it becomes that education for the young may be not only useless, but downright dangerous. Look at this Pluto thing.

I have a writer friend who is working on a book titled "Plumed Plunderers From the Planet Pluto." It is about a horde of feathered Plutonians who land on Earth with plans to hijack a Las Vegas casino and take it back to Pluto.

My friend's publisher is furious. If Pluto's not a planet, he says, the entire book becomes ridiculously implausible. *The publisher* wants his money back.

My friend has spent it, of course, so he proposes changing the title to "Satanic Satyrs From Insatiable Saturn." The plot would stay much the same, with an aggressive bunch of half-man, half-goat aliens trying to steal a casino and take it back to Saturn.

As a Pluto man from my cradle, I hate the idea of seeing it expelled from the society of certified planets. Being a victim of education, I have become accustomed to the nine-planet solar system and, being a stick-in-the-mud, I hate seeing it downsized.

Who needs any further evidence that everything learned when young was wrong?

□

It was school that taught us Columbus had proved the *world was round, though the* Egyptians had known it from antiquity. We are still having trouble accepting the truths that Columbus was not the first European to reach America and that he certainly did not "discover" it.

Many people become as irked as I do about the incessant need to keep up with today's wisdom by abandoning or revising yesterday's. *And of course today's wis*dom will just as inevitably have to be abandoned or revised as the future bears down upon us.

You can bet the world has not faced the last revision of knowledge about Pluto, or about what constitutes a good breakfast. The revising of what we think of as knowledge goes on forever, and always has.

The truth about knowledge seems to be that its truth is only a sometime thing, that what we accept as truth this year will have to be abandoned or revised as the world turns.

This endless abandonment and revision is usually said to result from progress. But suppose progress is also an idea doomed to be abandoned. What if there is no such thing as progress, but only change?

New York Times Service

The Dark Pages of a Comic Book Legend

By Katherine Knorr
International Herald Tribune

PARIS — When the Belgian cartoonist whose pen name was Hergé died in 1983, newspapers said that Tintin was dead.

Tintin is of course alive and well, one of the most successful comic strips of all time, sold in the tens of millions, translated into more than 35 languages and the subject of innumerable learned theses. Hergé, whose name was Georges Remi, remained a shadowy figure, however, widely but vaguely known to have held extreme right views and to have collaborated during the Occupation at publications that sympathized with the Nazis. *His work at various times was* clearly racist.

Now a new biography draws in the lines and the colors and makes clear just how far that collaboration went, and how troubled and depressive was this curious product of the Belgian ultra-Catholic right. It is not a funny story.

"He was a passive collaborator," said Pierre Assouline, whose "Hergé" (Plon) is based on the meticulous records of the Hergé *Foundation and many other sources* that had never been tapped or available before. It looks at his childhood (with an intriguing family secret), his time spent in the Catholic Boy Scouts and his strong need for mentors, who turned out mostly to be on the extreme right, often anti-Semitic, anti-capitalist, anti-American.

"Le Soir was a totally Nazi newspaper," Assouline said. "His signature gave it a good reference. He was very close to the editor in chief, who was *totally Nazi. He was* very well paid. Several times, he *was approached by the newspa*pers" of the Rexists, an ultra-right *movement formed around Léon* Degrelle, "and he didn't go — but *because of his own self-interest. He* thought these papers were going to collapse."

Assouline's book sheds light not only on Hergé's life, but also on the complicated political situation in occupied Belgium. And it describes in detail the way cartoon strips were used by the right and the left as propaganda weapons to reach young people.

Both in Belgium and in France, comic books were extremely important tools (and lucrative propositions), and one of the biggest French comic book firms, which published Coeurs Vaillants, where Tintin appeared, was run by a rightist abbé and was Pétainist during the war (as was Le Journal de Mickey, which distributed Disney strips in France).

Assouline also describes the many and varied attempts over the years, usually under the flag of "morality," to keep out of Europe *American comic strips like Tarzan* — protectionism by any other name or, plus ça change.

Throughout the book, Hergé comes across as a careful defender of his own interests — he defended his aesthetic vision, but he also defended his financial position and the many myths that surrounded Tintin (he tended to deny what seem in retrospect like obvious influences and *to downplay the* involvement of his helpers).

This self-interest, *combined* with a curious kind of political innocence, was very much apparent after the war, when he was briefly arrested and faced the possibility of being banned from working, by not being able to obtain the necessary *certificat de civisme*, issued by the officials conducting what was called *l'épuration*.

For years he said he was not proud of his anti-Semitic cartoons and asserted that he would never have *drawn them had he known what was* happening to the Jews who were *deported, but he never went the extra* step — there was no apology, apparently *no real shame. In Assou*line's portrait, Hergé seems less upset about concentration camps than about the fact that his country, as he saw it, had turned against him. He thought quite seriously of emigrating to Argentina.

Curiously, he was saved from further prosecution — and got the certificat de civisme — with help from friends who were in the Belgian *Résistance. Together, they* created the magazine Tintin.

"Le Vingtième Siècle, an extreme right newspaper" — where Hergé began his career under the editorship of his mentor, the Mussolini fan Abbé Norbert Wallez — "produced as many resistants as *collabos*," said Assouline. Hergé's friends were royalists, loyal to Leopold III.

After the war, some of the Tintin books were sanitized, redrawn in some cases, the words changed in others — racist depictions of blacks were toned down, some blacks became white, characters with names clearly *intended to sound Jewish* were renamed.

In the early editions of "L'Etoile Mystérieuse," the bad guys who are racing against Tintin and his crew to get hold of an aerolite containing a new metal, are working for the Banque Blumenstein. In the later editions, this became the Banque Bohlwinkel, after the word *bollewinkel*, which means a candy shop in Brussels dialect. (Ironically, Assouline recounts, a Jewish reader named Bohlwinkel later wrote an angry letter.)

Curiously, other unpleasant caricatures remain in the books sold today — in "L'Oreille Cassée," for example — and look like nothing so much as caricatures of Jews by the Nazis and the Vichy press.

There are more sympathetic sides to Hergé. "He is after all very touching. He is not a very courageous man," said Assouline. Despite his colonialist point of view in many books, he spoke out in his way for people he saw as oppressed — almost always under someone else's influence.

His long and touching friendship with a Chinese artist, Tchang Tchong Jen, who helped him get Chinese details right in the first Asian Tintin book, led him to come out against Japanese militarism, which did not please everyone. (Tchang, who figured as a character in "Tintin au Tibet," suffered greatly from the Cultural Revolution. They met up again, after not seeing each other for nearly 50 years, with luck almost as incredible as some Tintin stories.) And Hergé was on the right side of some issues, notably in his first book, "Tintin au Pays des Soviets," published in 1930 without illusions about communism.

If Hergé mostly has been not so much forgiven as given the benefit of the doubt, it is surely because of the singular genius that animated some of his best Tintin books and inspired generations of cartoonists, graphic artists (he was painted by Andy Warhol in 1977) and movie directors.

Distracted mad scientists that culminated in the lightbulb-headed Professor Tournesol, the Dupondts, the twin policemen whose arrival on the scene more often than not corresponds with some kind of disaster, the insurance boor Séraphin Lampion, the genial bibulous Capitaine Haddock and the ear-piercing Bianca Castafiore, the Milanese nightingale — his characters are unforgettable. And, of course, Milou the dog, who quite likes a drink himself.

The books turn on improbable, *rocambolesques* situations, with caverns, cliffs, mountain ledges and many false doors between the heroes and the ending, bad guys operating short-wave radios on sinister boats, miraculous rescues from rafts at sea, all of it punctuated by gags and pratfalls.

All major movie projects concerning Tintin have failed — a few cartoons were made, and two short movies in the 1960s that can still be seen now and then in art houses in Paris.

Steven Spielberg nearly acquired the rights, but Hergé balked at some of the clauses and the movie was never made.

Assouline feels in the end that it is just as well — that it isn't actually possible to portray on film a teenage reporter with an aggressive cowlick wearing plus fours, and a dog who talks. Spielberg did make Tintin movies, in Assouline's view, and great ones: "Indiana Jones."

Parlowsky/Sygma

Hergé working on a page for one of his Tintin books.

WEATHER

Europe

	Today High C/F	Today Low/W C/F	Tomorrow High C/F	Tomorrow Low/W C/F
Algarve	13/55	8/46 c	18/61	8/46 sh
Amsterdam	4/39	1/34 s	6/43	2/35 c
Ankara	5/41	-4/25 pc	16/61	4/39 pc
Athens	18/68	12/53 r	15/59	7/44 c
Barcelona	18/61	8/46 c	16/61	8/46 sh
Belgrade	12/53	4/39 c	11/52	1/34 c
Berlin	3/37	1/34 pc	6/43	-1/31 c
Brussels	6/43	1/34 c	9/48	2/35 c
Budapest	7/44	2/36 c	7/44	-1/31 c
Copenhagen	4/39	0/32 pc	6/43	1/34 pc
Costa Del Sol	12/53	8/46 c	15/59	8/46 sh
Dublin	7/44	1/34 r	10/50	3/37 sh
Edinburgh	7/44	3/37 r	9/48	5/41 c
Florence	17/62	6/43 pc	13/55	3/37 sh
Frankfurt	5/41	-1/31 c	3/37	-3/27 c
Geneva	9/48	3/37 r	10/50	1/34 sh
Helsinki	1/34	-6/22 s	1/34	-5/24 pc
Istanbul	13/55	6/43 c	15/59	8/46 pc
Las Palmas	19/66	14/57 c	21/70	16/61 s
Lisbon	12/53	9/48 c	14/57	8/46 sh
London	3/37	1/34 pc	12/53	7/44 c
Madrid	10/50	2/35 sh	13/55	1/34 sh
Milan	13/55	4/39 c	12/53	3/37 c
Moscow	1/34	-4/25 pc	3/37	-2/29 pc
Munich	9/48	2/35 pc	8/46	-1/31 c
Nice	11/52	7/44 r	17/62	9/48 c
Oslo	3/37	-3/27 c	6/43	-2/29 pc
Mallorca	14/57	9/48 c	15/59	9/48 sh
Paris	4/39	0/32 pc	11/52	2/35 c
Prague	6/43	0/32 c	5/41	-2/29 c
Reykjavik	4/39	3/37 r	4/39	1/34 r
Rome	16/61	7/44 pc	18/64	8/46 sh
St. Petersburg	4/39	-6/22 s	2/35	-6/22 pc
Stockholm	3/37	-2/29 pc	1/34	-2/29 c
Strasbourg	9/46	1/34 r	11/52	2/35 c
Tallinn	1/34	-5/24 s	2/35	-4/25 pc
Venice	13/55	9/43 pc	11/52	3/37 c
Vienna	5/41	2/35 pc	7/44	-1/31 c
Warsaw	2/35	-3/27 sl	2/35	-4/25 pc
Zurich	14/57	4/39 pc	11/52	1/34 sh

Oceania

Auckland	21/70	13/55 c	21/70	12/53 pc
Sydney	27/80	19/61 pc	27/80	20/68 pc

Forecast for Saturday through Monday, as provided by AccuWeather.

Jetstream · Unseasonably Cold · Unseasonably Hot · Heavy Rain · Heavy Snow

North America It will become wet and cooler in New York City and Washington, D.C., this weekend. There will be some wet snow in Chicago, Toronto, Cleveland and Pittsburgh. Miami will be sunny and warm, but showers and thunderstorms will dampen Atlanta. Most of the West Coast will be dry.

Europe London and Paris will have a few showers through the weekend, while Madrid and Lisbon have some rain. Rain will soak Athens, and Rome will be cool with showers. Rain or snow is likely in northern Italy and Bosnia. Cold, mainly dry weather is expected from Berlin to Moscow.

Asia Rain will drench Tokyo and Osaka the first half of this weekend. Rain may turn to snow in Seoul Saturday. Dry weather may return be early next week. Beijing will have rain or snow Saturday. Shanghai will have some showers, while Hong Kong will be warm and humid with a passing shower.

Middle East

	Today High C/F	Today Low/W C/F	Tomorrow High C/F	Tomorrow Low/W C/F
Abu Dhabi	33/73	14/57 s	34/75	14/57 s
Beirut	19/66	16/61 c	23/73	17/62 pc
Cairo	28/82	18/64 pc	32/89	17/62 s
Damascus	19/66	7/44 pc	19/66	11/52 s
Jerusalem	18/64	10/50 c	22/71	13/55 pc
Luxor	38/95	20/68 s	40/109	19/66 s
Riadh	23/73	12/53 s	25/77	13/55 pc

Africa

	Today High C/F	Today Low/W C/F	Tomorrow High C/F	Tomorrow Low/W C/F
Algiers	13/55	11/52 r	14/57	11/52 r
Cape Town	21/70	11/52 pc	23/64	17/62 s
Casablanca	10/50	6/43 r	13/55	7/44 r
Harare	20/68	11/52 pc	21/70	11/52 c
Lagos	31/88	27/80 pc	32/89	27/80 pc
Nairobi	23/73	12/53 c	27/80	13/55 pc
Tunis	17/62	13/55 r	17/62	7/44 pc

Asia

	Today High C/F	Today Low/W C/F	Tomorrow High C/F	Tomorrow Low/W C/F
Bangkok	33/91	24/75 pc	33/91	24/75 c
Beijing	12/53	-3/27 s	9/48	-1/31 c
Hong Kong	18/64	12/53 c	21/70	17/62 pc
Manila	31/88	23/73 pc	31/88	23/73 pc
New Delhi	37/99	23/73 s	36/97	21/70 s
Seoul	8/46	3/37 sh	10/50	1/34 sh
Shanghai	17/62	7/44 sh	18/61	9/48 pc
Singapore	31/88	25/77 pc	31/88	25/77 pc
Taipei	20/68	14/57 pc	28/79	17/62 pc
Tokyo	13/55	4/39 pc	16/61	7/44 sh

Latin America

Buenos Aires	31/88	19/66 s	31/88	21/70 pc
Caracas	29/82	18/64 pc	30/86	20/68 pc
Lima	24/75	21/70 pc	28/79	21/70 pc
Mexico City	23/73	11/52 s	26/79	11/52 pc
Rio de Janeiro	28/82	22/72 pc	30/86	24/75 pc
Santiago	24/75	9/48 s	25/77	11/52 pc

North America

Anchorage	-1/31	-9/27 sn	5/41	-6/22 c
Atlanta	22/71	12/53 s	24/75	12/53 sh
Boston	12/53	0/32 pc	12/53	1/34 c
Chicago	11/52	1/34 c	9/48	1/34 sh
Denver	1/34	-8/18 sn	2/35	-2/29 sn
Detroit	12/53	-1/31 c	10/50	2/35 sh
Honolulu	27/80	18/64 pc	29/84	21/70 pc
Houston	24/75	17/62 c	27/80	15/59 pc
Los Angeles	18/66	8/46 pc	20/68	9/48 pc
Miami	29/82	15/61 s	26/82	20/68 s
Minneapolis	3/37	-5/24 c	2/35	-3/27 sn
Montreal	6/43	-3/27 pc	6/43	1/34 c
Nassau	29/79	18/64 s	27/80	20/68 pc
New York	15/59	5/41 pc	13/55	3/37 c
Phoenix	20/68	9/48 sh	21/70	10/50 c
San Fran.	16/64	9/48 s	18/64	8/46 pc
Seattle	16/61	6/43 s	18/61	5/41 pc
Toronto	9/48	-1/31 pc	10/50	0/32 sh
Vancouver	13/56	6/43 s	13/55	6/43 pc
Washington	19/66	7/44 pc	17/62	6/43 c

Legend: s-sunny, pc-partly cloudy, c-cloudy, sh-showers, t-thunderstorms, r-rain, sl-snow flurries, sn-snow, I-ice, W-Weather. All maps, forecasts and data provided by AccuWeather, Inc. © 1996

WEEKEND SKI REPORT

Resort	Depth L	Depth U	Mtn. Pistes	Res. Pistes	Snow State	Last Snow	Comments
Andorra							
Pas de la Casa	200	260	Good	Open	Var	8/3	*fully open, great skiing at all levels*
Soldeu	110	240	Good	Open	Var	8/3	*fully open, enjoyable piste skiing*
Austria							
Ischgl	30	100	Good	Open	Pckd	11/3	*41 lifts open, all but lowest runs well*
Hintertux	45	200	Good	Open	Var	12/3	*17 lifts open, great glacier skiing*
Kitzbuhel	25	115	Good	Open	Var	12/3	*54 lifts, packed powder on firm base*
Lech	70	105	Good	Open	Var	12/3	*all 34 lifts open, great piste skiing*
Obergurgl	35	80	Good	Open	Var	12/3	*all 22 lifts open, well-groomed pistes*
Saalbach	60	75	Hard	Open	Var	12/3	*63 lifts open, all but lowest runs well*
Schladming	55	100	Good	Open	Var	12/3	*all lifts open, plenty of good piste ski*
St. Anton	65	190	Good	Open	Var	11/3	*all open, n.Facing slopes wearing*
Canada							
Lake Louise	130	175	Good	Open	heavy	8/3	*12 lifts open, good cover throughout*
Whistler	45	215	Good	Open	heavy	8/3	*25/26 lifts open, enjoyable sunny ski*
France							
Alpe d'Huez	95	300	Good	Open	Hard	21/2	*78/92 lifts open, plenty of great ski*
Avoriaz	150	190	Good	wom	Var	23/2	*42 lifts open, pistes in great shape*
Chamonix	45	245	Good	wom	Var	22/2	*61/62 lifts open, best at argentiere*
Courchevel	80	95	Good	Open	Hard	2/3	*all lifts open, n.Facing slopes best*
Les Deux Alpes	45	310	Good	Open	Var	23/2	*63 lifts open, 160cm snow at 2100m*
Méribel	45	95	Hard	Open	Pckd	2/3	*all 57 lifts open, best old at altitude*
La Plagne	105	175	Good	Open	Pckd	3/3	*104/112 lifts open, plenty of moguls*
Tignes	105	200	Good	Open	Pckd	2/3	*47 lifts open, good, some ice*
Val d'Isère	100	150	Good	Open	Var	2/3	*49/50 lifts open, most runs good*
Val Thorens	100	200	Good	Open	Var	2/3	*fully open, great skiing throughout*
Germany							
Berchtesgaden	25	100	Good	Closed	Var	12/3	*31 lifts, all but lowest runs well*
Garmisch	15	270	Good	Open	Var	12/3	*37 lifts, becoming worn low down*
Italy							
Bormio	30	135	Fair	Open	Hard	11/3	*15 lifts, some good skiing high up*
Switzerland							
Champery	20	120	Good	Open	Hard	22/2	*all lifts open, best above mid-station*
Crans Montana	15	200	Good	Open	Pckd	1/3	*41 lifts, upper runs in great shape*
Davos	35	115	Good	Open	Hard	12/3	*all 55 lifts open, well groomed pistes*
Grindelwald	10	70	Fair	Open	Pckd	12/3	*all lifts open, lower levels quite poor*
Klosters	25	125	Good	Open	Var	12/3	*55 lifts, great despite odd icy area*
St. Moritz	15	70	Fair	Open	Pckd	20/2	*24 lifts open, upper runs reasonable*
Verbier	25	150	Good	Open	Var	23/2	*35/39 lifts open, good ski at altitude*
Wengen	35	65	Fair	Open	Var	1/3	*23 lifts open, good cover most runs*
Zermatt	30	300	Good	Open	Hard	2/3	*31 lifts, good options at atitude*
U.S.							
Breckenridge	220	265	Good	Open	Var	13/3	*17 lifts open, great skiing all levels*
Crested Butte	170	220	Good	Open	Pckd	7/3	*all lifts open, great cover throughout*
Keystone	200	240	Good	Open	Pckd	13/3	*14 lifts open, full cover on all pistes*
Heavenly	160	275	Good	Open	Pckd	27/2	*23 lifts open, enjoyable skiing*
Park City	210	265	Good	Open	Pckd	13/3	*14 lifts, 89 runs open, great skiing*
Telluride	160	165	Good	Open	Var	13/3	*10 lifts open, plenty of good skiing*
Vail	185	245	Good	Open	Pckd	13/3	*26 lifts open, excellent ski all levels*

Key: L,U: Depth in cm on lower and upper slopes Mtn. Pistes Mountainside pistes. Res. Pistes Runs leading to resort village. Art. Artificial snow.

Reports supplied by the Ski Club of Great Britain.

PEOPLE

THE Archbishop of Paris, **Jean-Marie Lustiger**, was elevated Thursday to France's highest cultural body, the Académie Française. Lustiger, who was elected in June to the "immortals" of the 40-member body, took his seat in a ceremony at the Académie's headquarters on the Left Bank. Welcoming him to the order, the historian **Hélène Carrère d'Encausse** played up his Jewish roots. Lustiger is a converted Jew whose mother died in Auschwitz. "In becoming a Christian, you have never stopped, Monsieur le Cardinal, being Jewish," she said. "You have always rejected the idea of a Christian anti-Semitism." Lustiger initially refused to be considered for membership. "I am a priest," he said. "I never wanted to be a man of letters." But he was persuaded after the death of **Monsignor Albert Decourtray**, the Archbishop of Lyon, in September 1994, caused a seat to be vacated.

□

Now it's a deal: **Arnold Schwarzenegger** will play the villain Mr. Freeze in the next "Batman" film, **George Clooney**, star of "ER" on television, will play Batman in "Batman and Robin," with **Chris O'Donnell** as Robin, **Uma Thurman** as *Poison Ivy* and **Alicia Silverstone** as Batgirl, Warner Bros. *confirmed* after weeks of rumors. . . . **Sylvester Stallone** *won't get his usual* $20 million fee for playing a hearing-impaired sheriff. Instead he will work for scale, about $1,800 a week, in "Copland." "My career began with character-driven films," Stallone said, "and this part brings me full circle."

□

Ernie and **Bert** have returned, safe and sound, six weeks after they were abducted from a garden show exhibit in Weimar, Germany. The police in Weimar on Thursday turned the pair over to the agency that organized the German tour of 36 original Muppets. Thieves knocked through a wall and stole Ernie and Bert; they also smashed a glass case, trying to rip Miss Piggy from her display, but were unsuccessful.

□

City lawyers in Lowell, Massachusetts, have rejected a bid by **Jack Kerouac's** daughter to move his body to a graveyard where his family is buried. The city said Jan Kerouac has no legal authority to move her father's body from Lowell's Edson Cemetery to Nasbua, New Hampshire. Kerouac, the Beat generation author of "On the Road," died in 1969. He is buried in a plot owned by the family of his third wife. Jan Kerouac, a child of his second marriage who lives in Albuquerque, New Mexico, said she wanted the body moved "because I know he'd prefer to be buried with his mother, father and brother."

□

Thirty years after she became an instant pop star with "These Boots Are Made for Walkin'," **Nancy Sinatra** has donated her white go-go boots to the Hard Rock Café's museum of memorabilia.

□

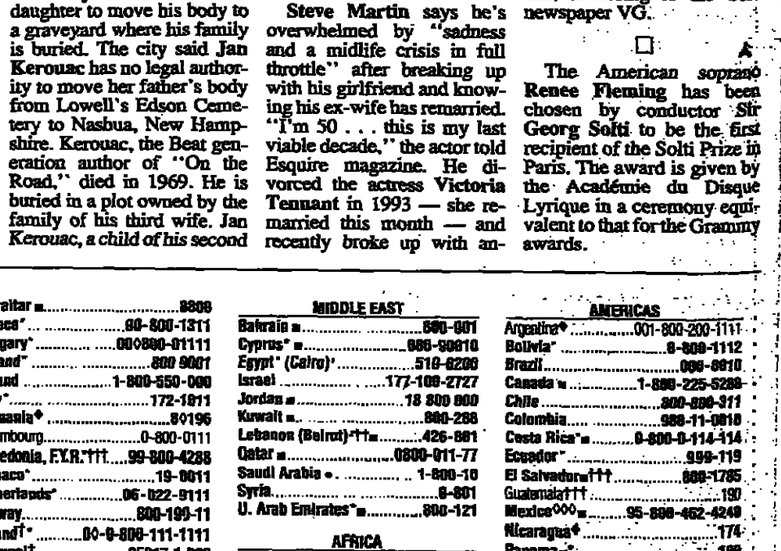
Steve Martin says he's overwhelmed by "sadness and a midlife crisis in full throttle" after breaking up with his girlfriend and knowing his ex-wife has remarried. "I'm 50 . . . this is my last viable decade," the actor told Esquire magazine. He divorced the actress **Victoria Tennant** in 1993 — she remarried this month — and recently broke up with another actress, **Anne Heche**. "I've been sorting out what it means to be a bachelor," he said.

□

Princess Martha Louise of Norway, who is an avid equestrian, has passed the exam for a truck driver's license so that she can haul her own horses. The 24-year-old princess maneuvered a 24-ton 10-wheeler around the icy and winding streets of an Oslo suburb to pass her driving test, according to the Oslo newspaper VG.

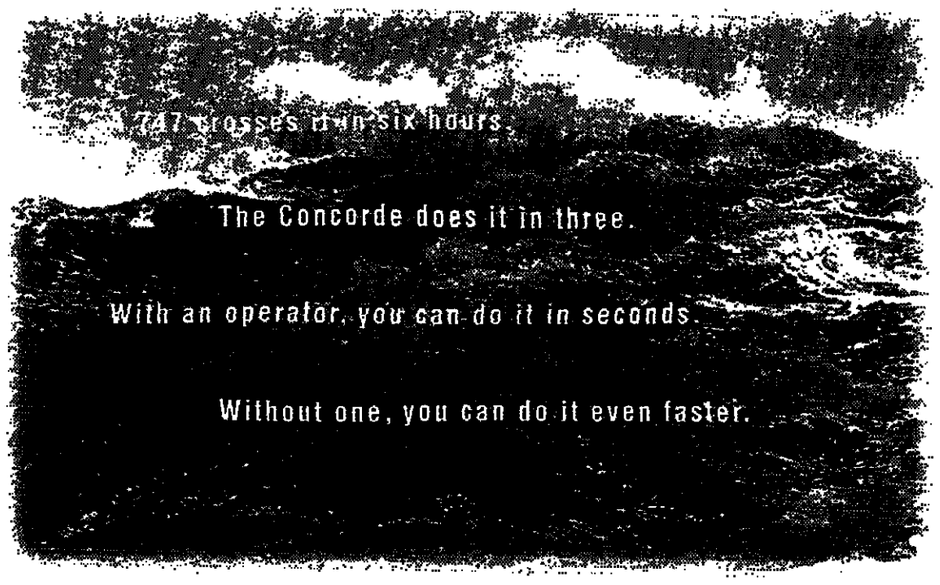
□

The American soprano **Renee Fleming** has been chosen by conductor **Sir Georg Solti** to be the first recipient of the Solti Prize in Paris. The award is given by the Académie du Disque Lyrique in a ceremony equivalent to that for the Grammy awards.



Sven Kaestner/The Associated Press

Ernie and Bert and police officer friend: Reunited with the other Muppets.



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EUROPE

Armenia*†	8014111
Austria*†††	022-903-011
Belgium*	0-800-100-10
Bosnia†	00-800-0010
Bulgaria◆	00-800-0010
Croatia◆	99-385-0111
Czech Republic*	00-42-000-101
Denmark	8001-0010
Finland*	9800-100-10
France	19-0011
Germany	0130-0010
Gibraltar ■	8800
Greece*	00-800-1311
Hungary*	000800-01111
Iceland*	800 9001
Ireland	1-800-550-000
Italy*	172-1011
Lithuania◆	80196
Luxembourg	0-800-0111
Macedonia, F.Y.R.*††	99-800-4288
Monaco*	19-0011
Netherlands*	06-022-9111
Norway	800-190-11
Poland†*	00-9-800-111-1111
Portugal†	05017-1-288
Romania*	01-800-4288
Russia*†(Moscow)	155-5042
Slovak Rep.*†	00-42-000-101
Spain*	900-99-00-11
Sweden	020-795-611
Switzerland*	0-800-550011
Turkey*	00-800-12277
Ukraine†	80100-11
United Kingdom	0500-89-0011
	0500-89-0011

MIDDLE EAST

Bahrain ■	800-001
Cyprus* ■	800-90010
Egypt* (Cairo)*	510-0200
Israel	177-100-2727
Jordan ■	18 800 800
Kuwait ■	800-288
Lebanon (Beirut)*††■	426-801
Qatar ■	0800-011-77
Saudi Arabia ■	1-800-10
Syria	0-801
U. Arab Emirates*■	800-121

AFRICA

Gabon*	000-001
Gambia*	00111
Ghana	0191
Ivory Coast*	00-111-11
Kenya†	0800-10
Liberia	797-797
Morocco ■	002-11-0011
Sierra Leone	1100
South Africa	0-800-99-0123
Zambia◆	00-899
Zimbabwe†	110-899

AMERICAS

Argentina◆	001-800-200-1111
Bolivia*	0-800-1112
Brazil	000-8010
Canada ■	1-800-225-5288
Chile	800-800-311
Colombia	980-11-0010
Costa Rica*■	0-800-0-114-114
Ecuador*	999-119
El Salvador†††	800-1785
Guatemala†††	190
Mexico◊◊◊■	95-800-462-4240
Nicaragua◆	174
Panama■*	109
Peru*■	171
Venezuela*■	800-11-120

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U.S. Moves

By Barry James

The Federal Aviation Administration in Washington said it would allow airline pilots rather than air traffic controllers to set their routes, and airlines to make more use of jets, more

The new system, known as flight, is based on navigation technologies and will to save fuel. It will take at least a decade to

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Egypt	E£ 5	Reunion	14
France	10.00 FF	Saudi Arabia	10.00
Gabon	1,500 CFA	Senegal	1,5
Greece	350 Dr	Spain	22
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